THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I. NEW YORK, MAY 1, 1864. No. 13.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 14,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN *is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.*

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 68 *Wall Street, or No.* 823 *Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.*

THE WAY IN WHICH FALSE IMPRESSIONS GET AFLOAT.

THE STATE OF OHIO,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
COLUMBUS, *April* 2, 1864.

To the Sanitary Associations of Ohio :

I invite your attention to the following communication* from our very intelligent and active Agent at Memphis. In a former letter Mr. Brigham says: "The Sanitary Commission here has always shown a readiness to supply our wants, but the Branch here has received little or no supplies for the last six months." Our Agent wants help at Memphis, and he very clearly designates the most desirables articles. Will our local societies assist our soldiers under this call? If so, they will report their contributions to the Quartermaster-General; I will provide transportation, and send a citizen of the State in charge of them to Memphis, so as to ensure their safe transit and prompt delivery. Prominent citizens are constantly offering to perform this kind of service, without compensation for time or labor. So that, in like manner, and by payment of expenses only, I can send similar contributions to other points whenever desired. I ask the co-operation of our Sanitary Associations.

Very respectfully,

JOHN BROUGH.

—

To the Editors of the Cincinnati Commercial:

SANITARY COMMISSION.

LOUISVILLE, *April* 5, 1864.

I observe in your issue of yesterday, a letter from Gov. Brough, on the want of Sanitary supplies at Memphis, and containing an appeal to the "Sanitary Associations of Ohio," to send stores to the Ohio Military Agent at that point.

* The purport of the communication referred to can be gleaned from the Governor's letter.

As the Sanitary Commission has been made the almoner of the bounty of the people of Ohio, and has become responsible for the just and equitable distribution of their gifts, since the efficiency of its administration has been called into question, it is but proper that some report of its work at Memphis should be made, in order that it may be seen, whether it has, or has not sustained the responsibilities it has assumed.

With your permission, therefore, I will crave space in your columns for a brief statement of what the Commission has done, and is doing for the relief of the wants of the soldier at this point. Since the occupation of Memphis by our troops, an agency of the U. S. Sanitary Commission has been maintained there, including a Soldiers' Lodge, and a depot of supplies, with a varying number of agents, under the general supervision of Dr. H. A. Warriner, Chief Inspector of the Mississippi Department. During the time of its continuance, the distributing depot has issued a large amount of hospital stores to hospitals, regiments, and gunboats; of all of which, accurate reports are on record at this office, and will be cheerfully furnished, if desired.

It will be remembered that Memphis was for a short time, a great military centre—was surrounded by a large army, and held several thousand sick and wounded in its hospitals. At that time the issues from the depot of the Commission were very large.

With the advance of the army to Vicksburg, this in turn became the centre of military activity, and the Sanitary Commission work in that Department and Memphis lost its relative importance, never to regain it. After the fall of Vicksburg, came the battle of Chickamauga—the withdrawal of a large part of the army of Gen. Grant from the Mississippi—the battle of Chattanooga, and all the exciting scenes of that memorable campaign. The terrible battles fought by our troops, the unparalleled hardships and privations they bore, as well as the great concentration of force near Chattanooga, turned the tide of benevolence for a time, all in that direction—and this was as it should be.

None of our men at Chattanooga, had any thing like the comforts which the Government furnished to those at Memphis. The issues of sanitary stores made by the Commission—great as they were—have never kept pace with the demand, and both justice and humanity have compelled us to give most liberally to the most needy, wherever found.

For this reason, much was sent to Chattanooga, and comparatively little to Memphis. That comparatively little, however, was not exactly "almost nothing," as reported in the letter of the Ohio Agent, as will appear from the following statement taken from our books of the disbursements from our depot at Memphis, during the six months alluded to by the Ohio State Agent:

34 blankets, 322 bed-ticks, 2,545 sheets, 9,405 shirts, 427 dressing-gowns, 7,724 towels and hdkfs., 50 night-caps, 35 eye-shades, 6,090 cushions and pads, 212 pin-cushions, 1,634 lbs. corned beef, 7,679 lbs. crackers, 736 comforters, 2,501 pillows, 3,832 pillow-cases, 5,631 pairs of drawers, 158 coats and vests, 1,194 pairs of socks, 460 pairs of slippers, 63 pairs of mittens, 9,627 lbs. compresses, 1,868 lbs. condensed milk, 1710 lbs. dried beef, 482½ lbs. tea, 3,384 lbs. sugar, 23,420 lbs. dried fruit, 85 bush. fresh fruit, 1,589 lbs. light groceries, 5,271 lbs. codfish, 52 lbs. cheese, 1,769 lbs. butter, 1,200 doz. eggs, 1,455 bot. wine and spirits, 33 galls. apple butter, 2,474 galls. pickles, 515 galls. sour kraut, 4,476 bush. potatoes, 1,317 do. onions, 928 gallons ale and cider, 643 lbs. farina and barley, 875 fans, 10 boxes of lemons, 3,156 cans fruit.

In addition to previous shipments made to Memphis by the Sanitary Commission, by Government transports—on the 10th of February, the Navigator, chartered for the purpose, went down the Ohio with a load of stores for the Mississippi Department—three-fourths of which were furnished by the Cincinnati Branch Commission—and of this load a fair share was left at Memphis; and on the 23d of March, the Dunleith was sent with another full load, from which Dr. Warriner—who was in charge—reports as follows:

MEMPHIS, *April* 1, 1864.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,
Secretary, &c.

We are putting off the last of the lot assigned to this place, viz:

330 barrels of potatoes, 200 do. onions, 100 do. sour kraut, 150 do. apples, 2,000 shirts, 1,000 pairs of drawers, and a fair proportion of whatever else we have on board. There are —— troops here, and 2,100 in General Hospital. I have our store room *thoroughly stuffed.*

Yours, &c.,

H. A. WARRINER.

From this it would seem that there are now sufficient Sanitary stores at Memphis to supply the want at that point. It only remains to show that they are available for the supply of wants of Ohio men.

The reports of our Agents at Memphis, and the letters of Judge Brigham, the State Military Agent there, all indicate that perfect harmony and concert of action have prevailed between them, and that whatever our depot contained, was subject to the draft of the State Agent for the supply of any wants of Ohio men, which he might discover, and that he has been in the habit of drawing from the depot since he has occupied his present position.

Learning, however, that he had reported a want of stores for distribution, I, last month, sent him a special authorization, which should make him feel free to draw from our agency of the abundance of stores which I knew had been sent there. My letter is as follows:

LOUISVILLE, KY., March 14, 1864.

F. W. BRIGHAM, ESQ.:

DEAR SIR—MRS. ROUSE has shown me a copy of your letter to the Governor, in regard to your experience with the Sanitary Commission at Memphis. I am gratified to learn that you have been able to derive assistance from our resources in supplying the wants of Ohio men, and I trust the pleasant relations that have subsisted between yourself and our agents, may be uninterrupted; and that they may continue to be, as they have been, mutually profitable. I enclose a letter to Mr. Carpenter, our agent, which will enable you at all times to share any means of relieving suffering, which may be at our command.

Yours, very cordially,

J. S. NEWBERRY.

This letter contained the following enclosure:

MR. D. B. CARPENTER, MEMPHIS, TENN.

DEAR SIR—This will be handed you by my friend, F. W. Brigham, Esq., Ohio Military Agent, who is doubtless already well known to you. Mr. B. is an acquaintance and friend of many years standing, and I take pleasure in commending him to your kind offices—unless greatly changed, he is in all things worthy of our respect, and I beg of you, so far as may be in your power, to co-operate with him, in the care of Ohio men.

Yours, respectfully,

J. S. NEWBERRY.

From this exhibit, it appears—

1st. That the supply of Sanitary stores received and issued at the depot of the U. S. Sanitary Commission at Memphis, during the six months referred to by the Ohio State Agent, was far from "almost nothing," but in fact was large, and always acceptable to Ohio men.

2nd. That the present supply at that point is *ample*, and that it has been by special authorization, made subject to the draft of the Ohio State Agent.

This, it seems to me, is all that is required to show that the Sanitary Commission has fully met its responsibilities at Memphis, both as regards efficiency of administration, and generosity of spirit.

Some better plea therefore, than that made by Governor Brough, would seem to be necessary to afford our auxiliaries good reason for departing from their present mode of working.

Should any persons or associations choose to send all, or part of their stores, to Judge Brigham, for distribution among Ohio men, I would not dissuade them from it, but let it not be on the plea that the Sanitary Commission has proved inadequate to their wants.

Very respectfully,

J. S. NEWBERRY.

—

HEADQUARTERS, MED. DEPT.,
108TH ILLS. INFANTRY,
MEMPHIS, TENN., *April* 20, 1864.

D. B. CARPENTER, ESQ.,
Agent U. S. Sanitar Commission:

SIR—I take great pleasure in complying with your request, and in answering so far as I may be able, the questions you were pleased to submit to me a few days since.

If, in any way, I can contribute to the removal of the erroneous impressions which evil disposed persons at the North—who, I greatly fear are strongly tinctured with treason—have persistently, and maliciously I think, endeavored to make upon the minds of those at home, whose duty to their country, humanity, and God, is to make the burden the soldier bears lighter. And when sickness and wounds come to him, away from home and friends, and all he holds so dear in life, to lend a tear of sympathy, to cool the fevered brow, and soothe the pain, I shall be amply repaid the little labor and less trouble, in giving my testimony in behalf of the noble men, women, and agents of the Sanitary Commission.

In answer to your first question I would say, that during my connection with the army, and at every point or station at which our regiment has been stationed, I have never failed to obtain a full supply of Sanitary stores as the Commission could furnish, when the goods were in store. I have uniformly found the agents of the Commission not only willing, but anxious to furnish them to the soldiers. My hospital has rarely been without such stores as were necessary, and frequently the well men in camp have had issued to them a plentiful supply.

To your second question. That the sick have undoubtedly been greatly benefited. The good done in the prevention of disease can never be computed.

To your third question. That never to any extent, or under any circumstances, have I known the supplies, appropriated in any other way than the one known to the donors.

To your fourth question. Every medical man knows the great importance of fresh vegetables in the prevention of scorbutic diseases, and to the supply furnished by the Commission, are we indebted for the immunity the army has enjoyed from such diseases.

Living as the soldier is upon the salt ration furnished by the Commissary, and the supply of fresh beef frequently limited, by the distance from the base of supply, and difficulties of transportation, without the aid of the Sanitary Commission, he would lose much of his vigor and efficiency.

Your fifth and sixth questions will be best answered together. The necessity for sanitary aid will continue so long as the war lasts. The circumstances which rendered the Sanitary Commission a necessity in this war, will continue to arise; as fast as their kindness may remove the call for it, some new call will be heard. The ministering angels of the Commission, the kind hearts that truly pulsate in response to their country's wants, must not cease their ministrations, nor withhold their kind words of cheer, or their indispensible donations. Let the brother at home not forget his brother in the army. Sister, your brother is sick in hospital, send to him some little delicacy. The assurance that he is kindly remembered will cheer him, will put new resolution in his weak frame. Feel no fear that it will not reach him. Your particular jar of jelly may not reach your particular brother or friend, but some one's will fill its place.

From the immense storehouse of the great free North, let our fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters send their potatoes, onions, pickles, kraut, fruits in their various preparations, through the Sanitary Commission. The agents will properly distribute whatever you send; and although the soldier, in the excitement of army life, may forget to thank you, or the amount of good done cannot be seen or computed, or the amount of disease prevented realized yet an efficient army, strong in the arms, free from disease, and acting in the holiest of all causes, will soon roll back the tide of treason and rebellion, and a great, free and peaceful nation bless the agents of its salvation.

Let the hands of the Sanitary Commission be upheld, the consciousness of good done will be the reward in time, and eternity will complete the recompense.

Very respectfully,

R. A. CONOVER,

Surgeon 108th Illinois Infantry Volunteers.

Surgeon Conover's letter did not form part of the correspondence arising out of Governor Brough's appeal, but its bearing on the subject is plain.

THE SANITARY MOVEMENT IN EUROPE.

Mr. Bowles, the Secretary of the "European Branch" of the Commission, continues to distribute our documents and reports amongst the savans and philanthropists, who have been instrumental in setting on foot the sanitary movement for European armies, of which we have already more than once spoken. He has received very gratifying replies, copies of which he has forwarded us—thanking him for the documents, asking for a continuance of their transmission, and expressing warm interest in the operations of our Commission—from M. de Preval, Sous-intendant Militaire of the French Army; M. Cochin, the distinguished author of the "Results of Emancipation;" Dr. Basting, Surgeon Major of the "Regiment d'Elite of the King of Holland; Dr. Sanda, Surgeon Major representing the "Sanitary Corps of the Spanish Army;" and from M. Capello, the Italian Consul at Geneva.

The work of establishing a vast International Sanitary Commission for European armies, with branches in every country, which was planned at the Conference at Geneva, of which we have already given some account, continues to progress favorably, and has received a great impulse, as might have been expected, from the outbreak of the war in Schleswig Holstein. M. Henri Dunant, the author of the little work entitled *Un Souvenir de Solferino*, to whose humane zeal the movement is in the main due, has received the following letter from the Emperor Napoleon:

SIR—The Emperor has considered the requests made by the International Conference, which took place at Geneva, under the presidency of General Dufour, for the study of the question of supplying international relief to the wounded soldiers on the field of battle.

His Majesty highly approves of the object of the Conference, and of the suggestions made for its attainment. He desires to assist you in your work, by favoring the formation of a Committee of Relief in Paris, and cheerfully authorizes you to make known his sympathy with your undertaking.

The Emperor has also desired me to write to the Minister of War, directing him to authorize some general officers to join the committee which you are organizing.

Receive, &c.,

FAVÉ,
Aide-de-Camp.

Shortly after the Conference held at Geneva, in the month of October, M. Moynier, President of the Society of Public Utility, who had presided at the Conference, published an account of the deliberations; and an official circular was then sent to the different European Governments, containing the following inquiries:

1. Is the Government disposed to accord its protection to the Committee of Relief for the wounded, which is being formed within its jurisdiction, as the result of the resolutions of the Genevan Conference, and to aid as much as possible the accomplishment of its designs?

2. Will the Government take part in an international convention, having for its object:

(*a.*) The conferring neutrality in time of war upon ambulances and military hospitals, the personnel of the sanitary official service, the volunteer nurses, &c., recruited by the Committee of Relief, the inhabitants of the country who shall go to aid the wounded, and the wounded soldiers.

(*b.*) The adoption of a uniform, or of a distinctive sign for the persons attached to the service, and for a flag which shall be the same for ambulances and hospitals.

If this last proposition should be favorably received, would there be any objection to a badge on the arm, and a white flag with a red cross?

Several Governments have already sent official answers. The Swiss Federal Council authorizes the War Department to carry out the wishes expressed in the circular, on condition that the States nearest Switzerland shall also agree to the proposition. Favorable answers were also received from Wurtemberg, Prussia, France, and Denmark. At Stuttgard an important committee has been formed, under the direction of Dr. Hahn, with an auxiliary branch of ladies, from among the highest nobility of Wurtemberg, and appeals have been published and widely circulated in the country. The King of Prussia has expressed his lively sympathy for the work, and has taken it under his protection. The Danish Minister of War has signified the desire of Denmark to adhere to the propositions of the committee, and associations have been formed in Denmark, in Sweden and in Norway. The ladies have also formed themselves into associations, and have begun by making and sending to the Danish soldiers, woolen socks and other warm garments; and they have also prepared lint, bandages, compresses, and have gathered all kinds of medicines and refreshments for the army.

Mr. Bowles reports, as the pecuniary

result of the labors of the "European Branch" of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, the collection up to March 1st of $18,843 75, and the branch, it must be remembered, is not over three months old.

In connection with the foregoing, we have received the following letter from Mr. Upton, the United States Consul at Geneva:

U. S. CONSULATE,
GENEVA, *April 6th*, 1864.

REV. AND DEAR SIR—It struck me, on reading the subjoined paragraphs in to-day's *Journal de Genevè*, relative to the war in Denmark, that they might interest your Committee; I have therefore copied and translated them.

"The delegate of the International Committee for the Relief of the Wounded of the Austro-Prussian Army, Dr. Appia, has been for some time past upon the theatre of the war, where every thing concurs to assure the success of his mission. Received with the greatest kindness by the military authorities, and especially by Marshal Wrangle, he has obtained all desirable facilities for passing freely over the territory occupied by the allied army. Wearing the white badge with a red cross, adopted by the Conference of Geneva, he has had access wherever his mission required his presence, and has procured some relief to the wounded in the name of the Geneva Committee.

"The work of the Conference meets on all sides the greatest sympathy, and its resolutions are generally recognized as very acceptable. A certain number of volunteer nurses (*d'infirmiers,*) have already had experience in Schleswig, and their services have been much appreciated; they have, in particular, triumphantly solved the great question of ascertaining whether their intervention might not be troublesome on the field of battle.

"At the latest date, (1st of April,) M. Appia was at the advanced post, at the moment when a brisk cannonade was about to open from both sides."

Very truly yours,
In the bonds of the Union,
CHAS. H. UPTON.

REV. H. W. BELLOWS,
New York.

WORK OF RELIEF IN THE ARMIES OF EASTERN VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND.

Dr. Steiner, our Chief Inspector of Relief, reports as follows:

Since my assignment to duty, (December 8, 1863,) as "Chief Inspector for the Commission in the armies of Eastern Virginia and Maryland, (excepting those connected with the defences of Washington, and those stationed at Baltimore and Annapolis,) "I have been endeavoring to organize my corps of agents, so as to command the whole of this field, and to bring the relief work of the Commission within the reach of all who might be entitled to it. The duties of a chief inspector, as laid down in the executive organization of the Commission, are "*to direct the work of the Commission*" in the Military department to which he has been assigned. Feeling the full responsibility which these duties impose on an officer, no labor has been spared in the organization of the work, which has been effected by the establishment of three distinct districts. *The Middle*, (comprising the Army of the Potomac;) *The Lower*, (comprising as much of the Eighteenth Corps as is stationed in Virginia and Maryland;) and *The Upper*, (comprising the forces in and near Cumberland, and eastward to the Monocacy Junction.) The first of these has always been employed as a species of school of instruction for the relief agents that have been afterwards employed in the other two. The results of nearly three years' relief work are thus made available in quickly training men for work, in accordance with the best plans practicable.

THE MIDDLE DISTRICT.—*Field Relief Corps, Army of the Potomac.*—The reorganization of this army has required a reorganization of the Relief Corps. It consists of the same agents that were reported at the first of last month, with slight changes in their assignments. The direction during the past month has been entirely under the care of Capt. Isaac Harris, whose active business habits have given a special *verve* to everything done by the corps. Its present constitution is as follows:

J. Warner Johnson, *Superintendent.*
Captain Isaac Harris, *Assistant Superintendent.*
George E. Holbrook, *Relief Agent 2d Corps.*
E. M. Barton, Col. G. A. Muhleck, " *5th Corps.*
S. M. Blazier, C. M. Betts, " *6th Corps.*
H. K. Wilcox, *Relief Agent, Cavalry Corps.*
Charles S. Clampitt, W. F. Dubosq, *Field Store Keepers.*
W. C. Whitteisey, H. C. Freeman, *Messengers.*

The size of the corps of this army being so large, it will be necessary to have two agents assigned to each, and therefore the present arrangement is not as complete as I hope to have it in a short time.

The arrangements for the spring campaign are now being made by the corps. The wagons are being repaired, and put into condition for active employment. Most of the agents have undergone a training, which will make them most useful in their work of charity; and there is reason to believe that our machinery will be such as the recent indications of confidence in the Commission, from the loyal people of the country, has a right to demand. While the industrious zeal of the women of America is being so enthusiastically exhibited all over the land, it is felt, by those who represent them in the field, that every exertion is required to prevent misappropriation of

stores, and to aid the medical officers in their ministrations to the sick and suffering. Constant visitations of hospitals and associations with those having in charge the various departments of the army, are required, in order to give them intelligent command of the relief work entrusted to them. With the view of showing the nature of their work, I ask attention to the accompanying reports—in some instances, diaries—of the agents, furnished me weekly as required by the rules of the corps.

1. Report of W. F. Dubosq, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, January 2, 1864.
2. Report of W. F. Dubosq, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, January 6, 1864.
3. Report of W. F. Dubosq, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, January 9, 1864.
4. Report of W. F. Dubosq, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, January 17, 1864.
5. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, February 7, 1864.
6. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, February 14, 1864.
7. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, February 21, 1864.
8. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, February 28, 1864.
9. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, February 29, 1864.
10. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, March 7, 1864.
11. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, March 17, 1864.
12. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, March 20, 1864.
13. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, March, 23d, 1864.
14. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, January 4, 1864.
15. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, January 9, 1864.
16. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, January 16, 1864.
17. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, January 24, 1864.
18. Report of George E. Holbpook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, January 30, 1864.
19. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, February 6, 1864.
20. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, February 13, 1864.
21. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, February 20, 1864.
22. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, February 27, 1864.
23. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, March 6th, 1864.
24. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, March 13, 1864.
25. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, March 19, 1864.
26. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, March 26, 1864.
27. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, January 4, 1864.
28. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, January 11, 1864.
29. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, January 17, 1864.
30. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, January 25, 1864.
31. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, January 31, 1864.
32. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, February 7, 1864.
33. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, February 15, 1864.
34. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, March 14, 1864.
35. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, March 21, 1864.
36. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, March 27, 1864.
37. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, January 3, 1864.
38. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, January 9, 1864.
39. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, January 16th, 1864.
40. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, January 23, 1864.
41. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, January 30, 1864.
42. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, February 6, 1864.
43. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, February 14, 1864.
44. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, February 15, 1864.
45. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, February 27, 1864.
46. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, March 6th, 1864.
47. Report of E. M. Barton, Relief Agent, 5th Corps, March 14, 1864.
48. Report of E. M. Barton, Relief Agent, 5th Corps, March 20, 1864.
49. Report of E. M. Barton, Relief Agent, 5th, Corps, March 28, 1864.
50. Report of E. M. Barton, Relief Agent, on 140th N.Y.V., March 21, 1864.
51. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, January 17, 1864.
52. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, January 25, 1864.
53. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, January 31, 1864.
54. Report of Charles M. Betts, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, February 15, 1864.
55. Report of Charles M. Betts, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, February 22, 1864.
56. Report of Charles M. Betts, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, February 27, 1864.
57. Report of Charles M. Betts, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, March 7, 1864.
58. Report of Charles M. Betts, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, March 14th, 1864.
59. Report of Charles M. Betts, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, March 21, 1864.
60. Report of Charles M. Betts, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, March 26, 1864.
61. Report of Captain Isaac Harris, Assistant Superintendent, Field Relief Corps, January 14, 1864.
62. Report of J. W. Johnson, Superintendent, Field Relief Corps, February 10, 1864.
63. Report of J. W. Johnson, Superintendent, Field Relief Corps, February 12, 1864.
64. Report of J. W. Johnson, Superintendent, Field Relief Corps, February 28, 1864.
65. Report of Captain Isaac Harris, Assistant Superintendent, Field Relief Corps, March 24 and 25, 1864,

[We have published some of these reports, and now give the list, as an index of the system in vogue to ensure accurate records of labor done.]

These reports will give a detailed account of the work of the agents, and include the work done at the engagement at Morton's Ford, as well as that at the Field Lodge, kept at Brandy Station.

The field quarters of the Corps at Brandy Station consists of a storehouse and a number of tents, occupied for lodging the agents, the sick and needy who may be detained at the station, and such friends of the soldiers as may from time to time visit the army. The red flag of the Commission, floating from the top of the house, can be seen for miles.

With the view of showing the issues made by the Field Relief Corps, since the first of January, I ask your attention to the accompanying abstract, (No. 66.) The files of the corps exhibit weekly abstracts of issues; and the receipted requisitions are contained in the archives of our work in the Army of the Potomac. These requisitions are mostly signed by medical officers —save such issues as have been made by

the agents to individual cases of need, for the time not under any special control, and which have always been accounted for as individual relief. An effort has been made to secure these receipted requisitions wherever possible, so that we might have in our archives written testimony as to the disposal of our stores, always ready for those who are curious and ready for such investigations.

THE LOWER DISTRICT.—*Major General Butler's command in Virginia and Maryland.*—During the past month, David S. Pope has acted as relief agent in charge of our work in and near Norfolk, and throughout the district. As he has expressed a desire for another field of labor, I detailed R. C. Nevin, on the 29th ult., to relieve him. Mr. Pope, after making Mr. N. acquainted with the nature of our operations in this district, will report for duty in the Army of the Potomac.

Our relief work has been so systematized by the plans of the relief agents lately in charge, that the greatest possible amount of good has been accomplished. A large warehouse, No. 15 Wide Water Street, was assigned to the use of the Sanitary Commission, by command of Brig. Gen. E. A. Wild, on the 3d of March, 1864. This is occupied by the relief agent and the storekeeper, (Samuel Bacon,) and is the depot for sanitary stores.

An abstract of the stores, forwarded from the central storehouse for the use of this portion of my department, accompanying this report, (No. 67,) will show the nature of the supplies which have been required.

The agent has been instructed to adopt the same plan of weekly reports which has obtained in the Potomac Army Relief Corps. These reports, with the receipted requisitions, have always been forwarded, on the first of the week, to the Chief Inspector. You will find the following reports among the accompanying documents:

68. Report of James Gall, Jr., Relief Agent, January 17, 1864.
69. Report of James Gall, Jr., Relief Agent, January 26, 1864.
70. Report of James Gall, Jr., Relief Agent, January 31, 1864.
71. Report of James Gall, Jr., Relief Agent, February 7, 1864.
72. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, February 14, 1864.
73. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, March 5, 1864.
74. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, March 12, 1864.
75. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, March 13, 1864.
76. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, March 20, 1864.

POINT LOOKOUT.—During the stay of Mr. E. B. Fairchild, as examiner in vital statistics, among the rebel prisoners at Point Lookout, Maryland, he acted also as relief agent, distributing stores to the needy in the General Hospital, and to such extreme cases among the sick prisoners as claimed his attention. His report will show the nature of the work, and how acceptable it must have been to the sick. The transferrence of Mr. F. to the West, deprives us of his services at Point Lookout. It is desirable that occasional communication be had with this point, by means of special visits, so as to ensure our supplying whatever may be needed. (No. 77.)

At the present time a force is said, by the newspapers, to be collecting at Annapolis, for offensive operations, under Major Gen. Burnside. It may possibly be that this force shall operate in Eastern Virginia. In this case, it will be necessary to organize some plan to meet the relief work that will be unavoidable, when the campaign is once entered upon. I shall take care to see that some proper persons be ready to undertake the work, and that the Sanitary Commission be fitly represented.

Indeed, in any plan of operations that may be adopted for Eastern Virginia, it is evident that hard-fought battles will result. Both sides are nerving themselves for a severe contest. The rest of the winter has enabled them to gather strength, and it would seem now as though the final struggle was near at hand. A wise providence as regards the accumulation of stores at depots, and the perfection of all arrangements for relief work, is required at the hands of the officers of the Commission. We have experience now in the work, and that experience should be made to tell in the way of improved plans and enlarged preparations.

THE UPPER DISTRICT—*Major General Sigel's command, from Cumberland eastwards.*—The relief work in this district has been very irregularly perfofmed until lately. Reliance was placed on occasional visits from the inspectors of the Commission to the regiments and hospitals of the command, and on applications made directly on our Washington storehouse for stores. In this way, quite a large amount of stores was issued. (No. 78.) The arrangements now entered into will enable us to work this field as well as that embraced in the other two districts. On the 19th ult., Mr. Charles C. Harris went to Harper's Ferry, and, through the kindness of the military authorities, was supplied with proper accommodations for a storehouse. Since that time, a full supply of stores has been forwarded to him, and it is intended that this storehouse shall be the depot of supplies for the Upper District of my Department. Mr. Harris writes of the courteous reception he has met at the hands of the officers; and how wide a field for active philanthropic labors has been opened before him. I refer you to his report for a fuller statement of the nature of his arrangements in Harper's Ferry. (No. 79.)

I intend that Mr. H. shall remain at the

Ferry, in the capacity of local relief agent and storekeeper. His time can be profitably spent in visiting the regiments in his neighborhood, finding out their wants and supplying them from the storehouse. His past experience in the Army of the Potomac, pre-eminently fits him for the duties.

The work of the Commission in this Upper District I have placed in charge of Col. Poten, lately of the Veteran Reserve Corps. Col. Poten has served with distinction in several Missouri regiments, having, as Major, led one of them in the famous engagement at Pea Ridge. In order to fit himself specially for his work, he spent some time with the Relief Corps of the Army of the Potomac. From his experience of army life, knowledge of men and sound common sense, and his acquaintance with the nature of the Commission's work, I have every reason to expect that he will prove to be one of our most valuable officers. My past experience as regards the value of army officers in the service of the Commission, is so favorable, that I feel the importance of securing such officers as have had a good record during their term of service in the army.

Since sending in my report, on the 1st of March, I have made a visit to the Army of the Potomac, and found that our agents have carried on the duties assigned them faithfully, and to the decided benefit of the soldier as well as the credit and good reputation of the Commission. It has been my pleasure to bear testimony to their faithfulness in previous reports. I do not wish to change the record in their favor one iota. They are firm and true, shrink from no labor, and avoid no necessary responsibility. The same testimony I must bear to my faithful clerk, E. R. Cornwall, to Mr. Hoag, (the city storekeeper,) and to Mr. L. V. Beebe, whose energy has enabled me in so many cases to get stores off with dispatch, when they were sadly needed at the front. Nor have the officers connected with the transportation department been at all indisposed to assist us, but have aided, as far as in their power, in all our work.

With the hope that the future record of this department may be even more satisfactory than its past, and that the relief work may remove much of the suffering of the war.

We annex, also, the report of Captain Harris, the Assistant Superintendent of Field Relief, (April 15:)

On the 27th of Feb'ry, on my return from furlough, I reported for duty to Mr. J. W. Johnson, at Brandy Station. The following Tuesday, Mr. Johnson left for Washington. Since which the superintendence of affairs in the field has devolved upon me.

Early in March, several reconnoissances were undertaken, by both cavalry and infantry; but as the troops went in the lightest possible marching order, unencumbered by trains of supply wagons, and accompanied by the fewest possible number of ambulances, it was deemed inexpedient to send out any of our wagons with supplies.

The most we could do was to collect from Washington a sufficient supply of stores to meet the emergency.

Happily these goods were not called into requisition—the infantry returning without a man less; and the cavalry, which accompanied them, with only a few cases of wounded, whose wants were easily supplied at the hospital.

The cavalry expedition under Kilpatrick, whatever may have been its losses, and the number of wounded rescued from the enemy, passed into another department, where I trust the wants of the sick and needy were not overlooked by the agents of the Commission stationed there.

Nothing beyond the ordinary routine of supplying the wants of the hospitals has characterized the work in this corps during the past six weeks, unless it is that of supplying the necessities of prisoners confined at the various Provost Marshal's quarters, who, on account of their peculiar situation, are not allowed to draw clothing or pay. To these men has the Commission, through the assiduity of its agents, been of great benefit. Most of the prisoners were held awaiting trial, or decisions of the Courts Marshal, which had for some reason been withheld. To these men were furnished underclothing and blankets, and frequently that panacea for all ills—tobacco. If the avidity with which they chewed it was an index of their thankfulness, then there is little danger of the Commission being styled a gigantic humbug, by those for whose welfare it claims its origin and existence.

The storehouse at this station, under the excellent management of Mr. C. S. Clampitt and his assistants, with one or two exceptions, and those owing to some delay on the railroad, has been able to supply the necessities of the hospitals, some of which have drawn quite heavily for clothing and articles of diet. The abstracts of issues which have, from week to week, been forwarded to the Central Office, will show you the amount of work done.

At Culpepper, the agency under Col. G. A. Mühleck, has been of great advantage to the sick of the 1st corps, as well as of one division of cavalry, whose illness would not warrant a removal to the Corps Hospital at this station, and were accordingly treated at their quarters, but who, nevertheless, urgently required those articles of diet, which it was happily the power of the Commission to supply.

The 5th corps, which since the 1st of January has been guarding the O. & A. R.

R., was so widely scattered, that it was deemed advisable to establish a store at Catlett's Station, which was accordingly done by Mr. Charles C. Harris, the Acting Relief Agent attached to the corps. For full particulars regarding his work, I am compelled to refer you to his weekly reports, his situation being such that I was unable to see him as frequently as I did the other agents.

On the 5th ultimo, the regular agent of the corps, Mr. E. M. Barton, relieved Mr. H., who reported at Washington for orders. It was soon after decided to discontinue the storehouse at Catlett's, and accordingly Mr. B. removed to Rappahannock Station, where he was able to make better arrangements for himself and horse, and from which point he was in easy communication by rail with the different regiments and brigade and division generals. The requisitions from the corps are now filled at this storehouse, which plan works very well—the stewards finding no difficulty in obtaining transportation for their stores by the cars.

Early in January, a Lodge for the accommodation of sick and benighted soldiers was established, there being no accommodation of any kind provided by the Government. Here, nearly one thousand men have found shelter and comfortable beds, whereas they would otherwise have been compelled, on many nights, to pass the dreary hours in cold, driving storms or freezing weather, without shelter.

Many a father and brother, yes, and mother, too, who had travelled hundreds of miles to visit some sick or dying relative, have had occasion to bless the tents, or rather the agency which placed them there, which provided them little comforts, which money can scarcely command in this inhospitable land.

More than three hundred meals have been furnished to soldiers who were without, and unable to obtain rations. Civilians in quest of sick friends, and wholly unacquainted with, and unprovided for a trip to the "front," have always been cordially received at our table.

On the 4th ultimo I received a communication from Gen. Patrick, Provost Marshal-General of this Army, and Dr. McParlin, Medical Director, recommending for charitable notice the family of Strother Jacobs, a refugee, formerly living near the Rapidan. Mr. Jacobs, who had been for some time in the Confederate service, was so unwell at times as to be confined to his bed during the day, and was little calculated to attend to the business of shipping his few household goods to Washington. They remained with us three weeks, during which they were rendered as comfortable as possible.

On the 27th ultimo, the ladies of the family were accompanied to Washington by E. G. Holbrook, Agent of the 2d corps—the husband having preceded thither a few days previous. The goods were safely transported under the charge of H. C. Freeman, messenger.

What the plan of operations for the coming season will be, it is impossible to foresee. All we can do is to prepare ourselves for the move, which must soon take place. The wagons, with their supplies, will all be stationed with their respective corps during the next week or ten days. Three of the wagons can go out on an hour's notice, should it be required. The hurry and liability of losing stores, should a move take place, has decided me to break up the storehouse at Culpepper within a few days, to be substituted by the corps wagons, which shall be placed there immediately on the return of Col. Mühleck.

It would be unnecessary for me to particularize any of the employees of the Commission under my charge, as having done his work well. All agents, storekeepers and teamsters, have at all times showed a willingness to carry out the objects of the Commission, which needs no special commendation.

All having had a furlough, and none having any special cause of grievance, it is to be hoped that the work of the Sanitary Commission in this army during the coming campaign will compare well with that in other departments.

* * * * *

On the 24th instant the more serious cases from the hospitals of the 2d and 3d corps, began to arrive at Brandy Station, for shipment to Alexandria and Washington.

The agents of the Sanitary Commission attached to the 1st, 2d, 3d and 6th corps, were present, and did good service in assisting the men from the ambulances to the cars.

We not having suitable apparatus for cooking food, in sufficient quantity, in a short time, the ladies representing Maine and New York, Mrs. Painter and Mrs. Husband, made application at the storehouse for beefstock, crackers, tea and sugar, which were furnished them, and, with the assistance of the Sanitary Commission, distributed.

Three long trains, loaded with sick and wounded men, were thereby provided with a substantial meal. The benefit which they derived may be estimated, when it is known that they had breakfasted before daybreak, and had been conveyed over corduroy roads to the station, and would not arrive at Alexandria until nearly dark. In addition to the above, a few bottles of stimulants were furnished to the surgeons who were to accompany them, on their requisitions, which no doubt proved very beneficial. I have every reason to believe from the

known character of these Surgeons, that the liquor was not misappropriated.

On the following day the sick of the 1st and 6th corps were removed, and they were supplied in the same manner, as far as lay in our power.

SANITARY AFFAIRS ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

We have published on another page a correspondence relative to the work performed by the Commission at Memphis, and intended to illustrate the way in which very erroneous impressions are constantly set afloat, often by the admission of a single unguarded expression in a letter or report. Mr. Carpenter, our agent at that point, with the view of shedding still further light on the general subject of the operations of the Commission in the West, addressed a circular to a number of surgeons in the department, asking for their opinion. We have annexed to Dr. Newberry's letter to the Cincinnati *Commercial*, the reply received from one of them, Surgeon Conover of the 108th Illinois. Those of the others will reach us in due course. Mr. Carpenter himself writes April 20th:

I have the honor to report affairs in this department in the same quiet and favorable condition as at my last report, and the number of patients in hospitals and sick in camps without material change; there is still an increase of small-pox, otherwise the classes of diseases remain the same.

I received on the 31st of March, of Dr. Warriner, per steamer Dunleith, 323 bbls. potatoes, 200 bbls. onions, 120 bbls. apples, 100 bbls. krant, 36 boxes shirts, drawers, &c., and 3 boxes fruit, which were a very seasonable supply, and much needed. Owing to the pressing call from the different surgeons in camps for vegetables—as scorbutic tendencies were becoming generally manifest—I issued them immediately in the ratio of 10 bbls. potatoes, 5 bbls. onions, and 2 bbls. kraut per regiment, for general distribution in the regiments. Small as the supply was, its ameliorating effects are very marked.

I have delayed my report somewhat, in order to be able to give some expression as to the value of potatoes pickled in vinegar. I regret to say that it appears to be universally unfavorable, as the men cannot be induced to make sufficient use of them to derive any marked benefit from them; the onion is not subject to the same objection, as they would be eaten with avidity. I received yesterday per steamer St. Cloud, from Cincinnati, 7 bbls. onions, 2 bbls. dried fruit, 1 bbl. crackers, 49 boxes fruit, cordial, farina, &c.—from Cairo, 120 bbls. potatoes, 16 bbls. onions, 83 bbls. and kegs pickled potatoes, 86 boxes dry goods and fruit, which give us a very good assortment. We shall always need a large supply of "eatables" here, as our hospitals are situated so far from our markets, that they have not the same facilities for making a "fund" with which to supply needed delicacies, as those farther North, where articles can be purchased at far less cost, consequently will need to be supplemented quite extensively by the Commission. We need now especially a supply of rags, bandages, and more sheets; the great increase of small-pox cases, and the reception of wounded at this point, make a large supply indispensable.

We have also received a report from Dr. Warriner, written April 15th, at Louisville, after his return from a general tour of inspection. It will be seen that at that date, although the disaster to General Banks' expedition, of which we have since received the news, was not anticipated, every thing was ready at Vicksburg to follow it up with relief, whenever an emergency arose. Dr. Warriner says:

I have just returned from the expedition to Vicksburg and intermediate military posts in the Mississippi Department, whither I went in charge of a full cargo of sanitary stores. I distributed these according to need, to gunboats and garrisons, at all points occupied by Federal troops, leaving the great bulk of the cargo, of course, at the two points—Memphis and Vicksburg—where we still keep up our agencies. I have already informed you of the supplies left at Memphis. The quantities reserved at Vicksburg where somewhat larger in respect of all articles, except fresh apples. I found these were not likely to keep sufficiently well to justify their transportation beyond Memphis. I left at Vicksburg some 700 barrels of vegetables, 200 barrels krant and pickled potatoes, 1,500 drawers, 2,500 shirts, 200 comforts, 150 sheets, 50 barrels dried fruit, and a goodly number of boxes of canned fruit, the quantity or condition of which I am not now able to give you with accuracy.

The vegetables will be issued promptly and freely, by Mr. Way, to regiments as well as hospitals. I left Vicksburg on the 5th inst. At that time the news from the Red River expedition was meagre and devoid of special interest, as also of definite indications respecting future movements.

The Red River was rising, and the gunboats were pushing on towards Shreveport.

No decided encounter with the enemy, and no marked incidents, had occurred by

land or water since the capture of Fort de Russey. Land forces were advancing simultaneously with the gunboats, a large sick list was reported, and the day of my arrival at Vicksburg, the painful rumor of the loss of the hospital steamer Woodford, by a snag, was received. The rumor was believed, although not made absolutely certain at the time I left. No supplies had been sent of any kind from Vicksburg up to that time. On that day the "Ike Harris," an ocean going steamer, was seized by the quartermaster, and sent to Fort de Russey to bring away contrabands. It only took the supplies necessary for the subsistence of these on the return voyage. There was understood to be a collection of 1,500 of them at that point. The Harris, from its structure, would be unable to go up higher than the Fort. There seemed to be no intention of sending supplies to the troops, either commissary or medical, without further orders. I considered the propriety of attempting to reach the expedition with the Dunleith, and a goodly portion of her cargo, but decided adversely to it. The boat itself was not adapted to such a trip. Its motive powers were feeble, and its capabilities of resistance and endurance, when assailed by rough weather, are shaky and uncertain.

But, aside from this, the trip itself, with the best of facilities therefor, was not yet advisable, as there was no information yet current or attainable that we would not meet the whole expedition on its return. Mr. Way, and his assistants at Vicksburg, have all needful vigilance, fidelity, and enterprise, and will go forward with stores whenever it becomes desirable and practicable to do so.

I found about 1,000 patients in general hospital at Vicksburg, and twice the number at Memphis. One half, or more, of the former are cases of small-pox. This is now the only disease displaying itself in an epidemic form in the army. It has been terribly prevalent for many months at all points on the river, where there are either troops or inhabitants. Yet there has been a surprisingly small number of deaths from it, taking this epidemic feature into account. It would seem as if the Beneficent Powers were determined that the whole army should have the disease, once for all, and so get through and beyond one great peril to its career, if not existence. One may almost believe that every man in the army has taken his turn, (who was susceptible of the disease,) during the winter. There seemed to be no decline to the epidemic up to the time of my leaving, but the advancing heat of the season will, of course, produce its accustomed results in checking it.

I found the affairs of the Commission, at both Memphis and Vicksburg, in a highly prosperous condition, and excellently well managed. After the Red River expedition, I imagine the sanitary work on the Mississippi, this side of New Orleans, will materially decline. That is, should that expedition prove a success, and no reverses be met with elsewhere on the river, of such magnitude as to call for the return of troops that have been removed to other departments.

We have received, though too late for insertion in this number, very full reports of the work performed by our agents in relieving the sick and wounded after the great battle. In the meantime, we find the following general statement on the subject in the correspondence of the *New York Herald*, from New Orleans:

Since the recent battles, Dr. Crane, of the Sanitary Commission; the Mayor, Capt. Hoyt, Mr. Tucker, General Banks' private secretary, and other gentlemen, have worked indefatigably day and night in gathering together and transporting stores to the sick and wounded.

Before the news of the engagement arrived, upwards of three hundred boxes and barrels of clothing, wines, and delicacies for the sick were forwarded; and within an hour after intelligence had reached this city of a battle having been fought at Mount Pleasant, fifty cases of lemons, wine, ice, &c., were shipped on a despatch boat for Alexandria; and since that time scarcely a boat has left this city for the front without taking up large quantities of all necessary hospital supplies, delicacies, &c., for the sick and wounded. Ten or twelve agents of the Commission are now with the army.

On Monday night last, a benefit was given at the Varieties Theatre, in behalf of the Sanitary Commission, and a subscription list opened at the box office. By this means upwards of two thousand dollars have already been subscribed.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION AND THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

The following letters explain themselves:

ANNAPOLIS, MD.,
April 1st, 1864.

MR. WM. A. HOVEY,
U. S. Sanitary Commission.

MY DEAR SIR—I have just received your letter, and am exceedingly pained that the statement in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of March 19th, should have arisen from any thing I had written to Philadelphia. So far from detracting from the good work of the Sanitary Commission at this point, and all others where I have labored during the war, I can say that they have done nobly, and promptly met the demands made upon them for stores in behalf of our soldiers.

The article in the *Inquirer*, I suppose, originated from what I may have written about the *presence* of *a member* of the Sanitary Commission in the Naval School Hospital. But, I assure you, I had no intention of conveying the impression that your noble organization was not at work here. I am well aware that you have your agents on the flag of truce boat, and that frequent visits are made to this point by members of your Commission. You have always had a storehouse at this hospital, which is always filled with goods; and at Camp Parole you have several ladies, who are representatives of your Commission. I trust that Mr. Knapp and yourself will not think that I intended to give the impression, that the Christian Commission was the only organization at this post. Far from it; a wrong impression was received.

Wherever I have been—on the Peninsula, at Antietam, Gettysburg, &c.—I have always found the Sanitary Commission at work. We are both laboring in the same noble cause; we should rather help each other; than seem to lessen the good influence which we would exert.

I am, very truly and respectfully yours,

J. O. Sloan.

U. S. Christian Commission,
No. 11, Bank Street,
Philadelphia, *April 7th*, 1864.

Miss H. D. Williams,
Agent U. S. San. Com., Camp Parole, Md.

It is with the greatest possible regret that I write, to correct a mistake into which we have been unfortunately led by information from Annapolis, to the effect that there was no agency of the Sanitary Commission in your place.

We have received from Rev. J. O. Sloan, our agent at Annapolis, in Naval School Hospital; also from Rev. G. R. Brent, of Camp Parole, letters which speak in the strongest possible terms of your "constant efforts to relieve the distressed;" and especially of your own labors, and those of Miss Phillips.

Rev. Mr. Sloan says: "There has, undoubtedly, been a wrong impression made at Philadelphia. I have corrected all, however."

I write to exonerate ourselves from the suspicion of having desired to cast even the slightest idea of disparagement upon the labors of the Sanitary Commission in Annapolis. The mistake on our part arose from entirely wrong information.

Will you pardon our mistake, and accept this poor apology, with our kindest regards and good wishes for your success.

W. E. Boardman,
Sec. U. S. C. C.

General Hospital, Tullahoma, Tenn.,
January 29, 1864.

My Dear Dr. Read—It is farthest from my wish to array our two organizations, having a common good at heart, one against the other; but it seems to me that the public mind needs, in some respects, to be instructed as to the best means of doing *good in the army*. There are at present two great organizations in the country, having this great end in view, viz., "The U. S. Sanitary Commission," and the "Christian Commission." Having, as you know, had a somewhat extensive experience during the past twenty-eight months, the most of that time on the "front," where aid has been most needed, and having seen and felt the practical workings of both bodies, I trust I may be pardoned, if, in a spirit of kindness, I point out what appears to me "to be an error" in one, contrasted with the more instructed experience of the other. The Sanitary Commission was instituted to supply, in part, and as supplementary to the services of the Medical Corps, the wants of the sick and wounded of the army, which, from the nature of the case, the General Government could not always do. This it has done, and is doing, to an extent never before known in the history of war. All the patriotism and benevolence of the people has been aroused, and they have poured upon the army the full stream of their bounty, trusting to the integrity and wisdom of the U. S. Sanitary Commission to distribute it. And well has it fulfilled the trust. At the outbreak of the rebellion, there were misgivings among the people, on the one hand, and the army, on the other, lest these bounties should be misapplied; but the day of such evil forebodings has gone by. I am free to confess, that, on the part of the Medical Department of the army, there was a fear lest it and the Sanitary Commission should come in collision; but the Commission adopted the only true and safe course, which was "to issue their supplies on the requisition of surgeons, and leave them to use them as the exigencies of the case might demand." The wisdom of this course has been fully established, the Sanitary Commission acknowledging "that those having the immediate charge of the sick being the only proper judges of what was best for them to have," and the Medical Department, in "looking to the Sanitary Commission as a fountain whence the wants of the sick could be supplied." In this way a mutual esteem and confidence has been established, and the two now work together harmoniously. The Christian Commission, if I understand it, was instituted to supply the "religious and moral wants of the army." So far as it has confined itself to this work, the surgeons, whether of regiments or in charge of hospitals, have been ready to extend the hand of welcome, and aid the agents of the society in their "work and labor of love;" but when the agents

come into hospital, and propose to issue articles of diet to "this man," or "that man," it becomes the duty of the surgeons to be firm, and say, "No one is competent to judge as to what is fit and proper for the sick or convalescent to have, but the medical officer having them in especial charge." It is but a few days since that an agent of the Christian Commission, whom I can but esteem for his honesty of purpose, and his zeal for the welfare of soldiers, came to this hospital, and requested the privilege of giving to various individuals, sick in the hospital, articles of diet which had been confided to him. I was obliged to say to him, "Sir, we do not know one man from another; neither you nor I are competent to judge what is proper in any individual case. That must be left to the judgment of the medical officer in charge of the wards; he knows every individual case. Leave the things you have to distribute with the steward. They will then go into the commissaries' room, and the attending surgeon will order them on the diet table, day by day, as they are needed." He did not "see it in that light," and nothing was left. It should be understood "that no articles of diet for the sick can or should be distributed, any more than an outsider could come into a hospital and prescribe medicines." Let the people at home pour their benefactions into the general store, to be used as wisdom and experience shall dictate, and let them send their agents into the field to do their moral and spiritual work; then there will be no clashing, and the temporal and moral wants of the army will be supplied.

Yours truly,

BENJAMIN WOODWARD,
Surgeon in Charge.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF STORES.

STEVENSON, ALA., *Feb.* 25, 1864.

DR. A. N. REED:

DEAR SIR—Day before yesterday, when your letter came, I was absent at Lookout in search of relics, and yesterday there was no mail to Nashville, so my letter will not reach you as soon as expected. Late letters from Nashville are not as long in coming as others were two years since.

All the stores sent from Louisville for the Home and for me, also those from Mr. Jones, have come to hand in good condition. I would have been glad to receive a greater amount of stimulants, if you had had them to spare, as every requisition asks more or less. Wines especially are in demand, and at this season of the year the sour native wines are particularly suitable to the relaxed condition of the system.

Your remarks in regard to misapplication of sanitary stores, and the care desirable in their distribution, are very just and necessary. I will send out to all the hospitals, from which issues are made from this post circulars similar to the one in pamphlet for the signatures of private soldiers, and will, as far as possible visit the hospitals myself, or send some person to collect the desired testimony. My own observations lead me to conclude—

1st. That the amount of sanitary stores consumed by sanitary agents, given by them in reciprocation of official courtesy, or directly misapplied, is infinitesimal.

2d. That the favors received by officers are very few, and the amount of stores consumed by officers so small as to be scarcely appreciable.

3d. That there is sometimes misapplication of stores by surgeons and hospital attendants, but by no means to the extent supposed, or to such a degree as to prevent the vast bulk of the stores from reaching the sick.

The first conclusion needs scarcely any explanation. The Sanitary Commission is dependent at every post for its successful operations upon the courtesy of the officers, and they have it in their power to render a thousand-fold for all the favors they receive. I think the course of proceeding of agents in such cases is uniform, but the amount of stores thus expended is too slight for mention. Few officers receive favors directly from the Commission, and never to the neglect of privates. At Kelly's Ferry I never accommodated well men to the neglect of the sick, or officers to the neglect of privates. Of the officers who stopped with me, I think I am safe in saying scarcely a dozen had ever received a meal at the expense of the Sanitary Commission, or who would be so situated as to receive a similar favor again. It shows a great disregard for truth to say that the Commission is a "good thing for the officer," when the aggregate of officers favored is so small.

I could have collected an abundance of the evidence from privates, which you desire, at the Ferry, but my opportunities now are not so good. Must close now as the train is coming. Will write more tomorrow. Cannot send, quite yet, amount and list of seeds.

Yours, very truly,

WM. A. SUTLIFFE.

VEGETABLES—VEGETABLES—VEGETABLES.

RINGGOLD, GA., *April* 4, 1864.

MR. D. BARTLETT,
Agent Sanitary Commission:

SIR—The 28 barrels of potatoes, 4 barrels of kraut, and 1 barrel of sliced potatoes, (in vinegar,) which you sent to be distributed to the men of the 1st Brigade, 3d Division, 14th A. C., have been received and distributed.

Permit me to express my thanks in behalf of the brigade for this liberal supply of vegetables.

No vegetables except those received from the Sanitary Commission, have been issued for several months.

In consequence of our brigade not being supplied with vegetables, we have had a good many cases of scurvy, and a scorbutic tendency in almost all of our diseases. For about a month before we left Chattanooga, we were supplied very liberally with vegetables by the Sanitary Commission, and the result was, a rapid improvement in almost every case of sickness. There were a good many cases of diarrhea, in which medicine would do no good, but which a few meals of kraut would cure—thus showing that it was change of diet rather than medicine, that was needed.

Our brigade is now in a very healthy condition, although there is some tendency to scurvy still manifest. I attribute in a great measure, the present healthy condition of the brigade, to the liberal supply of vegetables from the Sanitary Commission. We are now camped in a healthy location, with plenty of good water, and if we can have vegetables to issue with the rations now supplied by the Government, there is no reason why our brigade should not remain in healthy condition.

I hope, therefore, you will be able to supply us with vegetables, so that we can issue them to the men at least once a week. The old saying, "that an ounce of preventive is worth a pound of cure," is very applicable to the army, for it certainly is much better to supply the men with proper food, to prevent their getting sick, than it is to supply them with both food and medicine to cure them after becoming sick, and lose their services at the same time.

Yours, truly, JOSIAH D. COLTON,
Sur 92d Regt. O. V. I.,
. Act. Sur. 1st Bri. 3d Div., 14th A. C.

ONIONS FOR THE SOLDIERS.

A COUNTRY GIRL TO COUNTRY GIRLS AND BOYS.

Not long since I heard a soldier say that soldiers like onions; that he had, at one time, paid twenty-five cents for an onion. Onions are good for soldiers, and many of them crave them. You and I don't, maybe; we like them only a long way off; but the soldiers do. Down in a corner of our garden, behind the bushes, in what I recognize from surroundings as a long neglected corner—a spot unoccupied save by our dogs, who have considered it their own particular play-ground, and from which our boy has taken many a load of bones of their strewing—I see, in vision, the morning sun gleam brightly on rows of tiny green blades; and, as I look, the rows seem to form themselves into great characters, which presently I see are, FOR THE SOLDIERS. Henceforth, for this season, at least, that bone-strewed plot has a nobler destiny. The vision shall be realized. The dogs must seek another play-ground; this spot is to bear onions for the soldiers. Where now is stiff sod, shall indeed be mellow soil, where onions may take to themselves size and sap and odor. In due time the green tops may flavor soup for the Home Guard; but every bulb lying concealed in the dark mould shall be sacred to such as have seen actual service. Never, since exiled Israelites landed and sighed for the leeks and onions of Egypt, has there been so great a glorification of the odorous, tear-provoking bulb, as there shall be in this garden corner.

This sounds well, say you; but talking breaks no bones, and that frozen sod is not broken yet for those onion beds. You're right. When the barrel, (or shall it only be barrel?) containing them shall have been directed to the U. S. Sanitary Commission, will be a better time for talking of these onions of mine. But just one word to you, girls and boys. Have you a neglected corner in your garden, in your yard, or a place hitherto given to the cultivation of flowers only? That patch is not yours, I beg leave to inform you. The soldier has a mortgage on it. Waste soil is not to be tolerated about our homes, in these times, and the tulip, though a lovely ministrant, must give place to a root which may be put to nobler uses. Dear friends, can't you, won't you work these spots for the soldiers? Think! for any slight weariness we shall so suffer, they have known the hard endurance, the wear of long marches; for every drop of oozing sweat while bending at our toil, the crimson life-current streams from them for country, for home, that *we* may have them. Let us give freely what we can to those who are giving life, some of them, for us.

Glancing over a newspaper, my eye falls upon a statement that in the Army of the Cumberland there is much suffering for want of vegetables. In several regiments scurvy has broken out; and an urgent appeal is made to the Sanitary Commission for vegetables. Should each of us country girls and boys furnish a bushel, even, of vegetables—we won't insist upon the *onions* from all, if some of you prefer potatoes for your peculiar patch—and put them all together, those from each village sending their barrels—how the barrels would roll in? This seems humble work for some of us, does it? No work for country is mean; no work for its defenders is mean. Let us pledge ourselves, girls and boys, that we will do what we can, and that with the enthusiasm with which we pieced together, and flung out to the breeze, our first miniatures of the "Dear Old Flag," in the beginning of these strange times, when it is defended from these whom it has so long sheltered.—*The Independent.*

THE LEGISLATURE OF WISCONSIN AND THE COMMISSION.

Resolutions introduced by Mr. Hubbell were adopted, as follows:

Resolved, That the U. S. Sanitary Commission commends itself to the good will and hearty support of this Legislature, and that we hereby testify on behalf of the soldiers and people of Wisconsin, to the comprehensive benevolence of its principles, and the efficiency of its plans as a means of promoting the welfare of the army.

Resolved, That we especially value the nationality of its views, by which all our soldiers, without distinction of place or race, are regarded as U. S. soldiers, and treated as such in all respects.

Resolved, That the Ladies' Aid Societies of Wisconsin, acting as they do, in co-operation with the U. S. Sanitary Commission, are heartily commended to the continued support of our people, as the most suitable tributaries through which the contributions of Wisconsin may find their way to the hospitals and camps of the army.

Resolved, That the fidelity and generosity with which the efforts of the U. S. Sanitary Commission have been sustained by citizens of this State, and especially by its noble and patriotic women, is worthy of the highest commendation.

HOMES AND LODGES.

We have reports from the following Homes and Lodges:

Memphis.

At the Lodge at Memphis, during the four weeks ending April 3d, there have been admitted 1,833 men, from twenty-two States—making an average per day of 531. 1,660 lodgings have been provided, and 1,833 meals; transportation has been procured for 104.

Cairo.

The report from the Soldier's Home at Cairo, is as follows:

11,303 men have been admitted—making an average of 1,613 per day; 22,835 meals have been given, and 7,764 lodgings.

Nashville.

At the Soldier's Home in Nashville, during the month of March, 5,047 men have been admitted, from twenty-three States; 11,732 meals and 4,236 lodgings have been given; transportation has been procured for 3,742, and $20,-225.22 have been drawn and paid over to 108 men.

Louisville.

The Relief Agent of the Kentucky Branch of the U. S. C., reports as follows:

From the Home at Louisville, number of rations served during the two first weeks of March, 31,982; number of lodgings during the same time, 7,182. The Agent says: the business of the Home, in the way of providing for, and accommodating soldiers, has increased steadily, and judging from the demands of the past week, bids fair to continue to increase.

Brashear City.

At the Home at Brashear City, during the two first weeks of March, 628 soldiers have been received; 1,641 meals and 415 lodgings, have been given.

Detroit.

The report for the month of February, of the Soldier's Rest, at Detroit, shows that—

639 soldiers have been admitted; and 3,374 meals and 740 lodgings, have been given.

Camp Nelson.

Mr. Butler, our Agent at Camp Nelson, reports for the fifteen days ending March 31:

March commenced exceedingly wintry, a heavy and continuous storm of snow came with it, making Camp Nelson, and I presume sundry other places, very miserable and dangerous, without a shelter.

The buildings were by this time so far completed, that when the bed-sacks arrived, which they did on the morning of March 1st, a large detail of energetic soldiers prepared the Home for the reception of 260 men, who would otherwise have had no shelter from the intensely inclement weather.

The Home would not have been opened so early, had not the sudden return of winter forced every door open, and filled most of the beds—for every portion of it was incomplete, and in the hands of the mechanics. The hasty opening was, however, a matter of necessity, for not only were the health and comfort of 260 men in jeopardy, but their very lives.

With the exception of a few days when the Home was being completed, the month has been full of interesting labors to us, and I have reason to know of much profit to the soldiers who have sojourned with us. During this month, April, I trust that the Home will be finished in every particular, and increase in facilities for the comfort and cleanliness of the soldiers.

During the last fifteen days of March, we furnished: lodgings, 1,849; meals, 5,628—comprising a total for the month of March, of lodgings, 3,657; meals, 16,995.

A great change has taken place in this Camp during the last month. The immense business and traffic which a month ago were so lively, and the daily influx of strangers, which once was so great, have departed, leaving Camp Nelson comparatively dull, and shorn of its importance. The long trains of wagons, transporting Government stores to the front, have almost entirely disappeared; also, a large proportion of multifarious employees of the Camp.

The change has been sudden and disastrous to several enterprises, both military and civil—leaving the future character of the Camp unsettled and unknown.

The hospitals are still in full operation. Disease in its most malignant shapes, is unusually rife; cases of small pox, measles and fevers prevail more than ever, and results are uncommonly fatal.

The hospitals through this district, notwithstanding what the Hospital Fund is expected to do, are very needy. Suffering, in a variety of characters, makes frequent calls upon us.

There is any amount of work. We need material.

WORK OF THE STATISTICAL BUREAU.

Immediately after the first battle of Bull Run, (July 21st, 1861,) a number of inspectors were sent out to ascertain the condition of the troops that took part therein, before, during, and after, the engagement; and to investigate the causes which gave rise to the sudden panic among the men, which, it is believed, resulted in their defeat. The facts thus collected were arranged and tabulated in this office, and a report of the results deduced therefrom published (see appendix Doc. 40).

CAMP INSPECTIONS.

About the end of July, 1861, the Commission adopted a system of Camp Inspections, for the duties of which a number of Inspectors were appointed.

Among the subjects into which they were directed to inquire, and to report thereon, were the character of camp sites as to elevation, and their liability to malarial influences; drainage and policing of camp; ventilation of tents and quarters; cleanliness of men; quality of food and water; system of cooking generally employed; quality and sufficiency of clothing of men; management of field hospitals; sufficiency of medical supplies; sickness and mortality of troops, &c., &c. In short everything that affected the health and discipline, and consequently the efficiency, of the men was to be noted, the attention of the officers directed thereto; and advice offered, and suggestions made, whenever in the opinion of the inspectors, the ignorance of the officers, medical or otherwise, of sanitary laws, rendered it necessary.

Of these inspections we have received up to date 1,463 (representing 860 organizations).

Number received in 1861	555
" " " 1862	547
" " " 1863	361

These returns are subjected to *three* processes of tabulation. *First*, on preliminary sheets, for our own facility as office reference, and also to enable us to give such general information in regard to the location and military status of each regiment as may be proper.

Secondly, in a condensed form, where the condition, individually and collectively, of twelve regiments, in regard to the information required by inspectors, (Doc. 19 a,) is seen at a glance; and the information thus presented may be readily made use of as the Commission may see fit in correcting such abuses as come within the observation of the Inspectors, and in improving and ameliorating the condition of the soldier generally.

Thirdly, on a State register, where all the questions, embodied in Doc. 19 a, are arranged under their respective heads, so as to give a monthly summary of replies, obtained thereto by our Inspectors, of the regiments of each State, visited by them; these are again presented by groups of States; and finally, a grand aggregate, showing the total number of replies, or items of information, collected from all the organizations in the U. S. service, visited by our Inspectors during each month.

There have been recorded on the State register up to date about 700 returns, leaving still about 763 to be entered thereon.

The results to be obtained from the facts recorded in this register, will be of inestimable value in determining and reducing to a scientific basis, those general laws by which future military operations shall be governed, in regard to the economy of human life. Indeed this value has already been recognized, from the favor with which certain partial results, derived from facts collected in the inspection of the first 200 regiments, and embodied in Doc. 40, were received by statisticians and scientific men, not only in the United States, but also in France and England.

HOSPITAL STATISTICS.

In the summer of 1862, we copied from the records of the Surgeon General's Office, the consolidated reports of hospitals (including those of a few general hospitals) of the different departments, as far as they had been received. They all possess more or less value, according to the accuracy and consistency of each monthly report, one with another, in determining the average duration of treatment; ratio of deaths to 100 cases treated; ratio of sickness to 1,000 mean strength, and numbers furloughed, discharged and deserted. The reports of hospitals in the West are a great deal more incomplete than those in the East. The value of this data will be of use in giving approximating estimates of the number of men treated, in all the hospitals of the United States, regimental and general or otherwise, since the commencement of the war.

GAIN AND LOSS, SICKNESS AND MORTALITY, FIRST FIFTEEN MONTHS OF THE WAR.

Another source for the collection of data is the Adjutant General's Office.

The facts obtained there are of the first value, whether we consider them with regard to their vastness, or to the gradually increasing regularity of their returns, by which previous error is readily detected, and a greater accuracy secured.

In the beginning of April, 1862, we set to work to determine the sickness and mortality of

the whole army, from the beginning of the war, to the time the last returns had been received in the Adjutant General's Office. The rolls from which these results were to be elicited, are the returns of gain and loss of each regiment, usually made out by the Adjutant, and supposed to be forwarded monthly to the Office of the Adjutant General. At first they were irregular and incomplete; but as time elapsed, and their length of service increased, the officers gradually awakened to a sense of their duties, and the returns came in more and more regularly; until now irregularity in their transmission is perhaps rather the exception than the rule.

Commencing with June, 1861, we exhausted all the rolls received in the office from that time up to, and including August, 1862—a period of fifteen months—and comprises over 2,400 reports from the different organizations in the service.

The collection of this vast quantity of facts; their arrangement by States, and by groups of States; and their classification by months and seasons; together with a large number of other combinations, which are always suggested to the inquiring mind of the statistician, required the constant services of one clerk for over six months. It has been estimated that the deductions thus obtained, involved over one million figures.

The results elicited from the above, in relation to the first nine months of the war, (June, 1861, to March, 1862,) have been published, with illustrative diagrams [Doc. 46].

In this pamphlet are given the annual mortality rates of the volunteer army by seasons and by rank, and by location whence recruited; the constant sickness rates of the army East and West; and also comparisons between the sickness and mortality of the troops in the East and those in the West. Elaborate comparisons are likewise instituted between the sickness and mortality of the present volunteer army, and our army at different other periods of our history—particularly that engaged in the Mexican campaign; and also with the British army at various periods—and more especially during the Peninsular and Crimean campaigns.

It has also elaborate calculations, based on these returns, showing the rate of recruiting necessary to supply *given losses* from mortality, discharges, desertions, and other causes; and also showing the number of men required to keep up a *given constant* force of *effective* men, when a *given per centage* of men are constantly sick.

PHYSIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF SOLDIERS.

In January, 1863, we commenced the social and physiological examinations of soldiers; and since then have been constantly receiving, and continue to receive, these returns from our agents, Messrs. Buckley and Fairchild. The former has confined himself exclusively to the examination and measurement of Union soldiers, and the latter has been similarly employed on rebel soldiers at Point Lookout. The number of individual examination returns received up to date is, of Union soldiers, 4,078, and of rebels, 1,970—making in all 6,048 returns.

These we tabulate as they come in, distinguishing those in usual good health from those suffering from disease, exhaustion or otherwise.

Being fully impressed with the great value of this work in establishing comparisons between the physical, social, and moral condition of northern soldiers, with those of the south; and between both and those of European armies, we have succeeded in placing the aggregate facts in as forward a state as possible, so that results may be deduced therefrom with comparatively little delay and trouble.

THE INFLUENCE OF MILITARY LIFE ON MEN OF DIFFERENT AGES.

Another subject of investigation is to ascertain the average age of the soldiers of the volunteer service, by States; to find out what ages predominate in the national army; and through these means, by connecting them with other facts, to determine the relative efficiency of men in active military life, at different ages.

With regard to the average age of the volunteers, we are now engaged in collecting all the available data in the Adjutant General's Office on this point, and have completed that of the soldiers of the following thirteen States, namely:

Maine,	New Jersey,
New Hampshire,	Pennsylvania,
Vermont,	Maryland,
Rhode Island,	Illinois,
Massachusetts	Iowa,
Connecticut,	and
New York,	California.

We have thus far investigated the records of about 900 organizations or bodies of troops, involving the examination of 10,000 muster rolls—representing an aggregate force of nearly 800,000 men.

There yet remain to be examined, in order that each State may be represented, the rolls of sixteen States and Territories, beside the different State and United States' organizations of colored troops.

In regard to the question, as to the relative efficiency of men in active service at different ages, the difficulty of obtaining data for its discussion, makes it not an easy matter to conclu-

sively determine. The only available information, likely to throw light on this subject, was derived from records of deaths and burials, now being collected and recorded, under the official management of Brigadier-General Rucker. As these records are received, entries are made on a large register, of the name of the deceased soldier, his age, regiment, and cause of death; together with such other information as will render it not only a means of future identification, but also a document of considerable historic value.

Having obtained permission to make such use of the facts contained therein as we saw fit, we exhausted all the information relating to the age of the soldier, and the cause of death. Somewhat over 2,000 deaths were recorded.

The results seemed to indicate that the mortality was *less* between the ages of eighteen and twenty, than between twenty and twenty-five, but *greater* than among those of twenty-five and thirty-five.

Whether the facts obtained from the records of 2,000 men are sufficient to establish a question of such scientific importance, it is difficult to say; we understand, however, that they have been considerably increased since then. We know, also, that Mr. Elliot, previous to his departure for Europe, was about to make arrangements for the collection of data from other sources, and in sufficient quantity, to enable us to arrive at conclusive results on this point.

PENSIONS.

We have likewise collected from time to time, such other statistics of the volunteers, as were afforded by the rolls in the Adjutant General's Office, such as, nativities, occupations, heights, complexion, color of hair, eyes, &c. The number of men of whom we have obtained such descriptions is 69,000—of whom 18,000 are drafted men and substitutes; and the number of rolls examined, to get at this information, was at least 5,000. In these descriptions are comprised soldiers of the following States, namely:

Maine,	New Jersey,
New Hampshire,	Pennsylvania,
Vermont,	Maryland,
Rhode Island,	Illinois,
Massachusetts,	Iowa,
Connecticut,	Indiana, and
New York,	Minnesota.

As the rolls from which these facts are derived, are constantly being received, the work of collecting them may be prolonged indefinitely.

EFFECTS OF LONG MARCHES AND IMPROPER FOOD ON THE HEALTH OF THE MEN.

Soon after the battles of Gettysburg, another subject of investigation was entered upon. This was to ascertain the effect of long marches and improper or insufficient food, on the health of the men who took part in the engagement.

For the purpose of collecting the necessary facts to aid in its discussion, forms (J, J1, & J2) were prepared, and given to Inspectors with such instructions, in relation to their collection, as should render the information to be obtained of greater value.

We have received up to date 144 of these returns, (Dr. Swalm 50, Dr. Winslow 69, and Dr. Fairchild 25,) which we have arranged, classified and tabulated; and which await *scientific analysis*, to elicit just and correct conclusions in relation to the subjects under discussion.

IN THE HOSPITAL.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "A RAINY DAY IN CAMP."

S. S——, a Massachusetts Sergeant, worn out with heavy marches, wounds and camp disease, died in —— General Hospital, in November, 1863, in "perfect peace." Some who witnessed daily his wonderful sweet patience and content, through great languor and weariness, fancied sometimes they "could already see the brilliant particles of a halo in the air about his head."

I lay me down to sleep,
With little thought or care,
Whether my waking find
Me here—or THERE!

A bowing, burdened head,
That only asks to rest,
Unquestioning, upon
A loving Breast.

My good right-hand forgets
Its cunning now—
To march the weary march
I know not how.

I am not eager, bold,
Nor strong—all that is past:
I am ready NOT TO DO
At last—at last!

My half-day's work is done,
And this is all my part;
I give a patient God
My patient heart,

And grasp his banner still,
Though all its blue be dim;
These stripes, no less than stars,
Lead after Him.

The following was found in a pair of sanitary socks recently:

The fortunate owner of these socks is *secretly* informed, that they are the *one hundredth and ninety-first* pair knit for our 'Brave Boys' by Mrs. Abner Bartlett, of Medford, Mass., now aged 85 years. January, 1864.

HOSPITALS IN TENNESSEE.

(CONTINUED.)

Since my connection with the United States Sanitary Commission as hospital visitor, Mr. Ingraham and myself have visited the general hospitals in Nashville as often as once a week. In these visits I have endeavored to make myself fully acquainted with the wants of the sick and wounded soldiers in the various hospitals, and to furnish supplies to relieve their wants, to the full extent of their claims upon the aid of the Commission.

No case has presented itself, within my knowledge, that has been passed by without proper attention and relief. The affairs of these hospitals appear to be administered with care and ability by the surgeons in charge. Neatness, cleanliness, and order characterize all their departments. I have discovered no want of attention to the wants of the patients. They have wholesome food and suitable clothing. As a general thing, the wards are well ventilated, and kept at a proper temperature.

Strangers have often visited the hospitals with me, and in every instance have expressed gratification at the excellent manner in which they are provided, and the healthful condition in which they are kept. Not long ago, a father came here to visit his son, who was a wounded soldier in one of the hospitals. He came with the intention of taking his son home with him. After spending two days at the hospital, he said to me that he should leave his son there, for he was satisfied, from what he had seen, that his son was better cared for there than he could be at home.

That you may have a correct general idea of the work done by the Commission in these hospitals, I will enumerate the various articles that have been distributed in them during the months of January and February. The amount distributed in the month of March will be ascertained and included in the next report. I will also state the number of patients in each hospital for the same time, and from what States of the Union they have come.

This will be instructive, and serve to illustrate the necessity of such an organization as the United States Sanitary Commission.

During the months of January and February, there were distributed to Hospital No. 1, 321 shirts, 105 pairs of drawers, 107 towels, 52 pairs of socks, 11 pairs of slippers, 95 cans of fruit, 8 cans of condensed beef, 1,760 pounds of dried fruit, 248 pounds of groceries, 54 bottles of wine and spirits, 30 cans of condensed milk, 30 gallons of apple butter, 162 gallons of pickles, 360 gallons of krout, 304 bushels of potatoes, 52 bushels of onions, 63 gallons of ale, 15 bushels of green apples, 265 pounds of crackers, 41 pounds of codfish, 124 bandages, 48 pillow cases, and other small articles. This distribution was made, for the most part, under the immediate supervision of Mr. Ingraham and myself, and the soldiers in the hospital received the full benefit of it. I have not the slightest idea or suspicion that a single article was misapplied or wasted.

In a conversation I had last week with Dr. Horner, the surgeon in charge, he said publicly, in the presence of a number of ladies and gentlemen, that the United States Sanitary Commission had rendered the greatest possible service to Hospital No. 1; that it saved it last winter from going down; that he found it greatly in debt, and was only able to sustain it by the aid received from the Commission; and that it was now out of debt, and able to take care of itself. To show how highly he appreciated the service rendered, he directed a number of his assistants to procure a letter of thanks from the inmates of the hospital to the Commission, for the supplies received at their hands. That letter has been forwarded to you.

The number of sick and wounded soldiers in this hospital, who participated in the supplies above mentioned in the months of January and February, and the States from which they were mustered into the Federal service, will be found in the following table, furnished by the hospital clerk:

U. S. A., GENERAL HOSPITAL No. 1,
NASHVILLE, Tenn., *March* 26, 1864.

Number of patients from the different States in hospital, January 1st, 1864, also the number received in January and February:

	January 1, 1864.	Received in Jan.	Received in Feb.	Total Treated.
Regular Army.	16	6	10	32
Ohio.....	237	105	161	603
Indiana.....	126	70	66	252
Illinois.....	89	59	109	257
Tennessee.....	15	6	12	33
Michigan.....	67	17	41	125
Kentucky.....	80	25	50	155
Wisconsin.....	18	8	14	40
Minnesota.....	1	2	0	3
[illegible]	2	2	6	10
Missouri.....	5	3	15	23
Pennsylvania..	26	5	12	43
New York.....	15	8	14	37
Massachusetts.	5	3	0	8
New Jersey....	1	1	1	3
Iowa.....	13	1	10	25
Miscellaneous.	8	1	11	20
Total.....	726	312	532	1,570

From this exhibit it will be readily perceived, that no mere *State* agency would be adequate to supply the wants of the soldiers in this hospital; neither would it be adequate for any army hospital, for a similar state of facts exists in all. Here are fifteen hundred and seventy soldiers, from fifteen different States of the Union, brought together, by the casualties of war, in the same hospital.

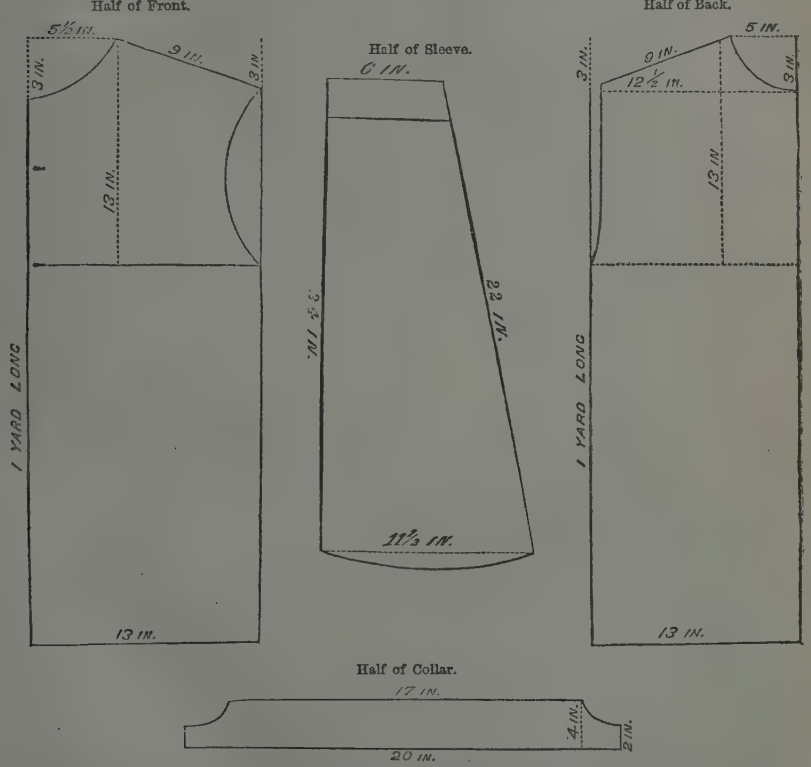
They are all United States soldiers, and were fighting under the same flag when wounded or disabled. Surely a Commission must be *national* in its character, and "not hemmed in by State lines," to meet the wants of such a case. In the struggle that exists, the political, social, and individual interests of the whole people are at stake; and it should make no difference with patriotic citizens from what State the heroes come who fight their battles for them; and, when suffering, there should be no partiality in the relief that is extended to them.

The United States Sanitary Commission was founded upon this broad and comprehensive principle of patriotism and benevolence; and the good it has done, and is doing, over the whole extent of the theatre of war, fully vindicate the wisdom of its organization.—*Report of Hospital Visitor.*

PATTERNS FOR HOSPITAL CLOTHING.

The following patterns have been adopted as the best and most economical by the New England Branch of the Sanitary Commission, after an experience of more than two years, during which over 45,500 garments have been cut.

FLANNEL SHIRT.



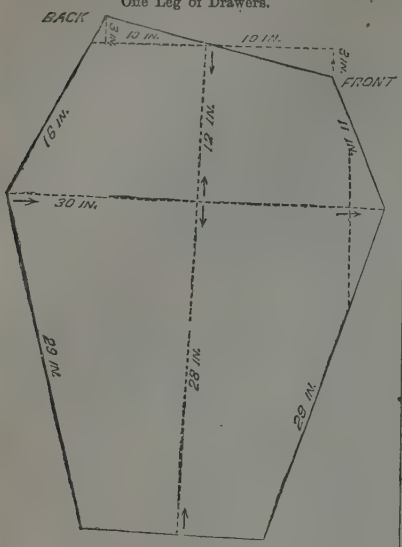
Required for each Shirt—3 skeins linen thread, 5 black bone buttons, 7 stays, tape or silesia.

Directions for Making.—The dimensions given above, are for flannel twenty-six inches wide.

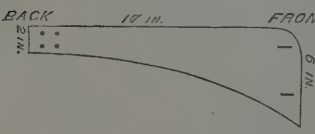
The opening in the front should be fourteen inches long, and should be faced on the left side with silesia, two and one-half inches wide. There should be two button-holes on this side. A flap of silesia, two and one-half inches wide, when doubled, should be put on the right side for the buttons, and stitched under the left side at the bottom of the opening. The collar should cover the flannel entirely on the left side, but the silesia flap should project beyond it on the right side. There should be one button and button-hole in it. The shoulder seams should be strengthened by a crosswise binding of silesia, and stays should be put on at the flaps and at the opening in the sleeve. The sleeve should be faced at the wrist with silesia, three inches wide, and fastened with one button. The opening at the wrist should be one finger long. The flaps should be two fingers long.

FLANNEL DRAWERS.

One Leg of Drawers.



Half of Waistband.



Required for each pair of Drawers.

1 tape stay, one inch long, (for opening in back.)

3 knots linen thread.

3 black bone buttons.

Narrow tape, for back of waistband (18 inches long.)

Directions for Making.—If the flannel to be used is less than thirty inches wide, put the point at the back close to the edge of the flannel and piece the fronts, as shown by the dotted lines above.

The opening below the waistband in the back should be four inches long. The opening in front should be seven inches long and faced with flannel or silesia, two inches wide. Two buttons should be put on the waistband in front, and one on the opening below. There should be four eyelet holes on each side of the waistband behind. Waistbands should be lined with silesia. Drawers to be closed to the ankle, and finished with hem.

To cut a piece of flannel economically, drawers and shirts should be cut together.

Put the bottom of one leg against the bottom of the other, and two long triangular pieces of flannel will be left on each side, out of which, with the other small pieces, cut the collars and wrist-facings for shirt, and waistband for drawers. In cutting the second pair of drawers, be careful that the slanting line of the top meets the slanting line left by the first pair, and go on as before.

Begin to cut the shirts at the other end of the piece of flannel, tearing off two yards for the body of each shirt. One sleeve and a half can be cut out of the width of the flannel, and in cutting a number of sleeves, one may be made to fadge into the other.

Pieces of flannel are usually from 45 to 52 or 53 yards long and 26 inches wide.

Cut by the above patterns, it will take about 5½ yards for a shirt and pair of drawers. The diagrams allow for seams.

SURGEON'S TESTIMONIALS.

HEADQUARTERS 3D DIV. 15TH A. C.,
HUNTSVILLE, Ala., *March* 6, 1864.

MY DEAR SIR—I have received lately two numbers of the *Sanitary Reporter*, the last of the 15th of February, for which, supposing that you sent them, accept my thanks. I have often wished that I could receive all the publications of the Sanitary Commission, and especially such as the above. The last number was especially interesting, as containing your report of your visit here. As it may be interesting to you, I will give you some figures in respect to the command since. I will enclose the total of my weekly reports since your visit. Between the 20th and last of February, I inspected the camps of eight organizations—seven regiments and the batteries—all that were accessible. I will give you the results as to sickness. The strength present was 2,556; number of sick (unfit for duty, rather,) at date of inspection, 87; average number for the preceding week, 95 3-7; giving on this average a ratio per thousand of mean strength 37.33—differing but little from the proportion when you were here, (3½ per cent.)

We have as yet had scarcely any symptoms of scurvy. One cause for this, perhaps, is the frequent foraging expeditions, in which the men get articles of food not otherwise easily procured. The details for duty are large, and prevent sickness from idleness. In my inspections I found that 7,053 rations of fresh beef, and 7,078 rations of soft bread, or flour, had been issued during the preceding week. You will perceive by the copy enclosed, that in the *regular way* we get very few vegetables. The potatoes issued have at times been damaged. The agents of the Sanitary Commission have issued quite largely. To them we are compelled to look for our supplies. I am glad to see my idea confirmed by your opinion of the anti-scorbutic properties of corn meal. It was at my suggestion that it was added to the articles to be reported weekly as issued. I would like to see the meal of parched corn issued. It, I presume, would keep as well as flour. As fresh potatoes cannot be procured in any thing like an adequate supply, I wish

very much that your suggestions as to "potatoes, pickled in vinegar, or put up in molasses, as for sea voyages, to be eaten raw," could be carried out. Our Post Hospital is now in much better condition than when you saw it. Mrs. Bickerdyke and Mrs. Porter reached here in the latter part of January, and soon caused a very decided change in the condition of affairs. Mrs. Porter is still there. Dr. Rogers, of the 59th Indiana, who then had charge, went home with his regiment, (veteran,) early in February, and it is now under the charge of Surgeon Early, of the 17th Iowa, an energetic and efficient officer. It now (March 18th, 1864,) contains 1,828 patients.

This has been delayed so long, because some days ago Mr. Tour told me that he expected you here in a few days. I was told at his office to-day, though, that your coming was uncertain; I therefore send you this as it is. We have twelve or fifteen cases of small-pox. A separate hospital has been established for them. The disease does not seem to increase. I commenced to-day to make a second inspection of our troops. If it is satisfactory to you, I will continue at intervals to keep you informed of our condition, &c. Knowing how constantly your time is occupied, I cannot expect the pleasure of a reply from you, though your doing so would give me great pleasure.

I am, most respectfully, &c.,

J. S. Prout,

Surgeon 26th Me. Vols., and Surgeon in Chief.

To Dr. A. N. Reed,

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Nashville, Tenn.

—

U. S. General Hospital, Patterson's Park, Baltimore, *April 8th.*

Dear Sir—I received your note some days ago; delayed the answer, because I wished to take time to reply at length—to answer your query as I think it should be answered. I hope to do so yet, but am exceedingly busy just now.

In the mean time, accept my grateful assurances that, in my opinion, the mission of the United States Sanitary Commission is a noble one; that its members have ever done their duty well; and that very much suffering among the soldiers has been alleviated through their instrumentality, that could not, under the circumstances, have been reached by any means in possession of surgeons in the field.

It is true that the Government provides liberally, very liberally, for the sick and wounded; but the Sanitary Commission has, to my knowledge, provided for them when the Government could not; and it is, to say the least, ungrateful on the part of officers, as well as men, to refuse to acknowledge the benefits received.

God speed the Sanitary Commission, until you hear from me again.

Believe me, yours truly,

(Signed,)

Thos. Sim,

Surgeon U. S. Vols., in charge of Patterson Park Hospital, late Medical Director 3rd A. C.

Dr. Steiner,

Office San. Com., Washington.

—

U. S. A. General Hospital, Camden Street, Baltimore, Md., *March 28th*, 1864.

Mr. J. T. Pancoast,

Agent U. S. Sanitary Commission:

Sir—I take this method of expressing to you my personal thanks, for the prompt manner in which you have at all times filled all requests for sanitary clothing and supplies, which from time to time I have made for the benefit and use of the sick and wounded soldiers in this hospital; and I take this occasion to reiterate what I have often before declared, that, from nearly three years' varied experience in hospital and field, I am fully convinced that clothing and other contributions from the people to the soldiers are, with much more facility, uniformity and certainty, distributed among the sick soldiers in the field and hospitals, through the medium of the Sanitary Commission, than by any other means heretofore adopted.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

Z. E. Bliss,

Surgeon U. S. Vols, in charge of Hospital.

—

Headquarters, Hospital 1st Div. 2d Corps, *March 12th*, 1864.

Doctor—I desire to express, in a more tangible manner than by words, my appreciation of the Sanitary Commission as an institution. The amount of good which is being done in the Army of the Potomac daily by the Commission, cannot be overestimated. Although I have never been visited officially by the agent of this corps, since I have been in the charge of this hospital, yet I have been able to procure an abundance of supplies of all kinds from the officer at Brandy Station, by which means I am not only enabled to make the patients under my charge comfortable, but to afford them a degree of luxury. When the history of this war shall have been written, it will be found that the Sanitary Commission has acted no mean part towards putting down the rebellion.

I am, Doctor,

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed,)

W. W. Potter,

Surgeon in Charge.

Dr. Winslow,

Inspector Sanitary Commission.

The following extracts are from a letter written by Mr. F. C. Sessions, of Columbus, Ohio, who has lately visited the Army of the Potomac, to look into the condition of troops from that State, at the request of the Governor. Speaking of Ohio soldiers, he says:

These regiments have been remarkably healthy for the last year. The 4th has not lost a man by disease since a year ago last December. The 8th has lost but two by disease. This speaks well for Ohio surgeons. A more faithful and intelligent class of men I never saw—enthusiastic and devoted to their profession; I have noticed them now in nearly all of our armies, east and south, with pride and satisfaction. They all express themselves in the highest terms of the Sanitary Commission, and its noble work; and but for its labors, many a poor soldier, now serving his country, would have been in his grave. Its business with this army is immense. Each station is charged with every article sent them; and the agents are obliged to report vouchers from the surgeons of the regiments receiving articles for every thing given out, and make a weekly report of all their expenses, &c.

* * * * *

I examined the report of the agents of the Sanitary Commission at Culpepper and Brandy Station, and found our Ohio regiments had been supplied with all that the surgeons desired. Every requisition had been promptly filled by the Commission, and the surgeons expressed themselves highly grateful for their generous aid.

One remarked: "God only knows how we should have suffered at Antietam, Gettysburg, and other battle-fields, without their assistance." He mentioned the numerous articles supplied by the Commission, which the Government do not furnish. Each surgeon is obliged to give a receipt for each article that they receive, and that they will honorably distribute the same to the sick and wounded of their respective regiments or hospitals. Captain Harris, the efficient and gentlemanly superintendent of the Relief Corps, was formerly from Ohio, and takes special pleasure in caring for Ohio men; he was for two years a captain in the army. Col. Poten, formerly commander of Camp Chase, has charge of the Commission in Gen. Siegel's department, at Harper's Ferry. The army has been remarkably healthy this winter, and never stronger, morally or physically.

HOSPITAL GARDENS.

These laudable institutions flourish apace, and promise to be of the greatest utility to the army. Of that at Chattanooga, Mr. M. C. Reed writes as follows: "The garden of one hundred acres and a little more is now fenced, and arrangements made for all the land we may desire to use adjoining it. It is well furnished with tools of all kinds. To-morrow I shall send out an additional harrow just finished, and a portable blacksmith's forge for repairs. It remains only to secure the erection of barracks for the men, gardeners, store-room for the seeds and tools, and a shelter for the horses, and my work for providing material will be nearly finished. The fencing party will go to work at the vineyard to-morrow. We intend to make the garden and the vineyard supply fully the wants of all the sick and wounded accessible from this point, so far as vegetables are concerned, from midsummer until late in the fall; and although it requires quite a large expenditure for seed, it seems to me it is good economy to put under cultivation as much of this splendid soil as we can cultivate well."

Mr. Thomas Wills, the superintending gardener, writes at a later date, March 25:

I am getting along well. We have planted some forty-five bushels of potatoes, twelve of onions, seven of peas—some of which are up—and have in our hot-beds, cabbage, mustard, lettuce and tomatoes, all growing finely. I have twenty-five men and thirty-six horses on the land, which is most beautifully situated, and very rich. We have also two vineyards, one of sixteen acres, the other containing fourteen thousand eight hundred vines.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FESTIVAL AT SING SING.

Editor San. Com. Bulletin:

I am glad to see that you receive, and publish, communications even from villages; and as the little rills all contribute to swell the volume of our noble Hudson, as it pours into the great Atlantic, so do the contributions from hamlet and village aid in the great work done by the Woman's Central Association; may we, loyal women of Sing Sing, have a little space to tell of our festival? In February last, fearfully, and with but little hope of success, one of our directresses suggested a Festival, and a meeting of the young ladies from each of the village churches was called. The enthusiastic manner in which they responded to the call banished all fear—"No such word as fail," they said, and valiantly they sallied forth; loyal men, fearful men, half-way patriots, whole copperheads, no one was passed by, and if there was a single man, woman, or child, who refused their mite, we don't know, and don't wan't to know who they are. For two days before the festival, down poured the rain, and painfully through mud of the thickest kind plowed the horses, and yet there were young men and

maidens from miles back in the country working at wet, cold evergreens, that made one shiver to look at. The great day arrived—long tables were set, and so the good things came with a perfect rush. Huge turkeys, chickens, hams, tongues, rounds of beef garnished with exquisite flowers in full bloom, and budding japonicas red and white—"from whose green house did they come?" Why they are made of homeliest materials—turnips and beets! chicken pies, tarts, great milk pans full of doughnuts, crullers, jumbles, and a dozen different kinds of real home-made cakes, biscuits, loaves of home-made bread, pine-apples of golden butter, oysters, ice-cream, jellies, blanc mange, tea, coffee, fruits—will they never cease coming? Every table is groaning under the weight of delicacies. Distracted women, with huge, white aprons, rush about, and wonder where they will stow the supplies; young girls mischievously titter at their perplexity, and feel elated at the success of their exertions; efficient young men come to the help of the matrons, improvising on the stage that occupies one end of the spacious hall, a store-room. Three o'clock comes very early; the young girls, each with a white apron tied about the trim waist, and the dear colors, the red, white, blue on their loyal bosoms, take their stands. At the head of the room is a small table of fancy work, got up in haste, but creditable to the taste and industry of the fair fingers. The two large military schools are among the first visitors, and linger until discipline obliges their exit; they are staunch patrons and loyal boys—each boy averaging three suppers, at least; he is good for that amount, or more. Nearly one hundred well-behaved lads are there, and the feast and the fun goes on—until twelve o'clock the "cry is still they come," provisions and guests, and the hall is crowded to its utmost capacity; the wonder grows how the children can eat so much, and the managers feel that a separate donation and vote of thanks should be sent by the physicians of the village, all that week, for cases of surfeit and indigestion. There will surely be an increased practice for them. Early the next morning, a faithful few appear on the scene of action. The evergreens are still beautiful, the canary birds are singing shrilly, the pictures and banners are all right, the store-house is full. True, all the bouquets are sold, the fancy table is cleared, but there are eatables enough to warrant another evening's entertainment. So they set to work resolutely, and the débris of the feast is cleared away, and by five o'clock the tables again are filled, and again the crowd pour in. An auction sale concludes the evening, and the tired managers, too tired to count their gains, gladly divide the surplus of meats among the poor and needy. In donations and sales they had taken in $820! Think of that in proportion with Chicago, Albany, and Boston; they had done well—a little village, destitute of the summer visitors, who always give so liberally to fairs and festivals, the roads in a fearful state, too. It was a great success, and most thankfully was it felt to be such by the managers, who knew of an empty treasury, and the sore need of our war-worn and sick soldiers. A committee of gentlemen have organized a series of lectures in aid of the Sing Sing Society, and Mr. Belden, Dr. Fox, and George Wm. Curtis, have delivered lectures to good, and appreciative audiences, refusing all compensation for their services. Dr. Foster, the loyal and eloquent Methodist clergyman, closes the course next week. Mr. Editor, does not Sing Sing deserve a corner in the Bulletin?

OSSINNING.

PATRIOTIC UNITY—HOW IT IS TO BE FOSTERED.

All true friends of their country, desire to see, at this moment above all, united devotion to her cause—and they rejoice at every effort to avert discord. For this reason many readers were glad to see this extract repeated in your editorial column:

We believe the great body of the Democrats of the North are at heart loyal; tens of thousands of them are in the field to-day—Heaven shield them!—we are proud to name such men, and to be defended by them in this trial hour.—*Democrat, April 4th.*

It was as just as it was generous. Thoughtful men prize and applaud such utterances, for they know our country needs them now. In the same spirit and to the same end, is your vindication of the motives and aims of the friends, promoters, and managers of the great Sanitary Fairs. And it was this that prompted me to take up my pen this morning, and that has led me to ask the insertion of this article:

Let me quote you here again—

"When we think of the earnestness, the Christian benevolence, the self-sacrificing devotion, with which the kind-hearted ladies of our city engaged in the Sanitary Fair; when we think of the generosity with which the good and pure-minded, without distinction of party or sect, contributed to its success; when we recall the emotions of pleasure with which the proceeds were forwarded to the relief of the prostrate sick and wounded soldiers in our hospitals, the heart is filled with gratitude to the kind Author of our existence for having created us with benevolent hearts and generous impulses.

"We regard the munificent contributions for the relief of the suffering heroes of the

battle-field, as one of the most praiseworthy exhibitions of the kind-heartedness of this noble people. Of their unspeakable benefit to the soldiers, no one will doubt. In short, we have heard a most intelligent army surgeon, high in position, remark, that without the aid of the Sanitary Commission the sick and wounded could not be treated with common humanity. "In fact," said he, "I doubt whether we should carry on the war without it!"

The Sanitary Commission, Mr. Editor, has been singularly fortunate in escaping insinuations of sinister design and selfish purpose, which any unusual efforts of human zeal are pretty sure to draw from those who have no faith in lofty motives. I have heard them, in whispers, here and there. But the first and only formal embodiment of them which has met my eyes, is in the malignant extract which drew forth your remarks—started in some New Hampshire paper. May I ask you to reprint it here, as a specimen "to send to the Fair," and to elucidate my argument.

"By the way, we notice that these great so-called Sanitary Fairs, purporting to be for the purpose of procuring aid and comfort for the sick and wounded soldiers, are having an extensive run through the country. The alleged object may be a good one, but in looking over the names of the managers in every instance, we are led to believe that the whole thing is a political trick, very much like the Kansas Aid Societies of 1855-56, to raise funds for the Abolitionists to carry the Presidential election. These managers are leading Administration men, with a liberal sprinkling of those political nondescripts called, for the want of a better name, 'War Democrats.'"

The author of this ungenerous calumny has doubtless long ago been answered by New Hampshire women. For they have been among the foremost in personal interest and work, and furnishing supplies to the distributing hand of the Sanitary Commission.

I remember well the comfort that was given at one of the Commission's depots, during the rain and mud, on the dark and memorable night of re-crossing the Rappahannock from Chancellorville, as I dealt out a box of New Hampshire supplies, and read aloud the greetings from those who sent them, which I found enclosed in some of the New Hampshire "feetings." And they were New York soldiers who received them, as it happened; and I was a New Yorker, dealing them out. I felt towards New Hampshire then, as a part of our common country, as nothing else could have made me feel. And I "took to" the Sanitary Commission, as being (over and above its immediate utility as a healer to the bodies of the soldiers,) a great institution for a moral end; for fostering a national spirit. No agency has been so promotive of a pure patriotic spirit in this war; of a national patriotism; of loyal sympathy with Government, irrespective of political affinities; and of enthusiastic interest in our armies, as contending for the nation's life. It accepted war, and armies in the field, as a fact. It took up the saving of life and health in the armies of the nation as a duty. It rejoiced in being the ministering servant of the homes of our soldiers, in carrying to them the solaces of home.

It eschewed all differences and questions of opinion in politics and religion, and suppressed their manifestations, to the utmost of its power, as I know, in its counsels and among its agents.

Democrats, Republicans, Radicals—yes, and Copperheads, Roman Catholics and Presbyterians; Unitarians, Methodists, Episcopalians, Baptists—men and women of all varieties of creed and opinion, have met, and consulted, and labored, and given together, and hence learned to respect and esteem each other, and to draw nearer to each other; lowering the fence of separation, and mollifying the harshnesses of antagonism, on this broad platform of national patriotism and humane sympathy. And very many of them have learned to prize the privilege as providential, and as a compensation to be made much of, amid all the alienation, and grief, and havoc, which war inevitably brings along with it.

You will not wonder, then, that the writer should sympathize in your endeavor to repel insinuations of unworthy aim, from this great agency for promoting and fostering patriotic unity.

Yours,

J. V.

—*Rochester Democrat.*

NOTES ON NURSING.

TAKING FOOD.

Every careful observer of the sick will agree in this, that thousands of patients are annually starved in the midst of plenty, from want of attention to the ways which alone make it possible for them to take food. This want of attention is as remarkable in those who urge upon the sick to do what is quite impossible to them, as in the sick themselves, who will not make the effort to do what is perfectly possible to them.

For instance, to the large majority of very weak patients it is quite impossible to take any solid food before 11 A. M., nor then, if their strength is still further exhausted by fasting till that hour. For weak patients have generally feverish nights and, in the morning, dry mouths; and, if they could eat with those dry mouths, it would be the worse for them. A spoonful of beef-tea, of arrowroot and wine, of egg flip, every hour, will give them the requisite nourishment, and prevent them from being too much exhausted to take at a later hour the solid food, which is necessary for their recovery. And every patient who can swallow at all can swallow

these liquid things, if he chooses. But how often do we hear a mutton-chop, an egg, a bit of bacon, ordered to a patient for breakfast, to whom (as a moment's consideration would show us) it must be quite impossible to masticate such things at that hour.

Again, a nurse is ordered to give a patient a tea-cup full of some article of food every three hours. The patient's stomach rejects it. If so, try a table-spoon full every hour; if this will not do, a tea-spoon full every quarter of an hour.

I am bound to say, that I think more patients are lost, by want of care and ingenuity in these momentous minutiæ, in private nursing than in public hospitals. And I think there is more of the *entente cordiale* to assist one another's hands between the doctor and his head nurse in the latter institutions, than between the doctor and the patient's friends in the private house.

If we did but know the consequences which may ensue, in very weak patients, from ten minutes' fasting or repletion, (I call it repletion when they are obliged to let too small an interval elapse between taking food and some other exertion, owing to the nurse's unpunctuality,) we should be more careful never to let this occur. In very weak patients there is often a nervous difficulty of swallowing, which is so much increased by any other call upon their strength that, unless they have their food punctually at the minute, which minute again must be arranged so as to fall in with no other minute's occupation, they can take nothing till the next respite occurs—so that an unpunctuality or delay of ten minutes, may very well turn out to be one of two or three hours. And why is it not as easy to be punctual to a minute? Life often literally hangs upon these minutes.

In acute cases, where life or death is to be determined in a few hours, these matters are very generally attended to, especially in Hospitals; and the number of cases is large where the patient is, as it were, brought back to life by exceeding care on the part of the Doctor or Nurse, or both, in ordering and giving nourishment with minute selection and punctuality.

But in chronic cases, lasting over months and years, where the fatal issue is often determined at last by mere protracted starvation, I had rather not enumerate the instances which I have known where a little ingenuity, and a great deal of perseverance, might, in all probability, have averted the result. The consulting the hours, when the patient can take food; the observation of the times, often varying, when he is most faint; the altering seasons of taking food, in order to anticipate and prevent such times—all this, which requires observation, ingenuity, and perseverance, (and these really constitute the good nurse,) might save more lives than we wot of.

To leave the patient's untasted food by his side, from meal to meal, in hopes that he will eat it in the interval, is simply to prevent him from taking any food at all. I have known patients literally incapacitated from taking one article of food after another, by this piece of ignorance. Let the food come at the right time, and be taken away, eaten or uneaten, at the right time; but never let a patient have "something always standing" by him, if you don't wish to disgust him of everything.

On the other hand, I have known a patient's life saved (he was sinking for want of food) by the simple question, put to him by the doctor, "But is there no hour when you feel you could eat?" "Oh, yes," he said, "I could always take something at — o'clock and — o'clock." The thing was tried and succeeded. Patients very seldom, however, can tell this; it is for you to watch and find it out.

A patient should, if possible, not see or smell either the food of others, or a greater amount of food than he himself can consume at one time, or even hear food talked about, or see it in the raw state. I know of no exception to the above rule. The breaking of it always induces a greater or less incapacity of taking food.

In hospital wards it is of course impossible to observe all this; and in single wards, where a patient must be continuously and closely watched, it is frequently impossible to relieve the attendant, so that his or her own meals can be taken out of the ward. But it is not the less true that, in such cases, even where the patient is not himself aware of it, his possibility of taking food is limited by seeing the attendant eating meals under his observation. In some cases the sick are aware of it, and complain. A case where the patient was supposed to be insensible, but complained as soon as able to speak, is now present to my recollection.

Remember, however, that the extreme punctuality in well-ordered hospitals, the rule that nothing shall be done in the ward while the patients are having their meals, go far to counterbalance what unavoidable evil there is in having patients together. I have often seen the private nurse go on dusting or fidgeting about in a sick room, all the while the patient is eating, or trying to eat.

That the more alone an invalid can be when taking food, the better, is unquestionable; and, even if he must be fed, the nurse should not allow him to talk, or talk to him, especially about food, while eating.

When a person is compelled, by the pressure of occupation, to continue his business while sick, it ought to be a rule, WITHOUT ANY EXCEPTION WHATEVER, that no one shall bring business to him or talk to him while he is taking food, nor go on talking to him on interesting subjects up to the last moment before his meals, nor make an engagement with him immediately after, so that there be any hurry of mind while taking them.

Upon the observance of these rules, especially the first, often depends the patient's capability of taking food at all, or, if he is amiable, and forces himself to take food, of deriving any nourishment from it.

A nurse should never put before a patient milk that is sour, meat or soup that is turned, an egg that is bad, or vegetables underdone. Yet often I have seen these things brought in to the sick in a state perfectly perceptible to every nose or eye except the nurse's. It is here the clever nurse appears; she will not bring in the peccant article, but, not to disappoint the patient, she will whip up something else in a few minutes. Remember that sick cookery should half do the work of your poor patient's weak digestion. But if you further impair it with your bad articles, I know not what is to become of him or of it.

If the nurse is an intelligent being, and not a mere carrier of diets to and from the patient, let her exercise her intelligence in these things. How often we have known a patient eat nothing at all in the day, because one meal was left untasted, (at that time he was incapable of eating,) at another the milk was sour, the third was spoiled by some other accident. And it never occurred to the nurse to extemporize some expedient—it never occurred to her that as he had had no solid food that day he might eat a bit of toast (say) with his tea in the evening, or he might have some meal an hour earlier. A patient who cannot touch his dinner at two, will often accept it gladly, if brought to him at seven. But somehow nurses never "think of these things." One would imagine they did not consider themselves bound to exercise their judgment; they leave it to the patient. Now I am quite sure that it is better for a patient rather to suffer these neglects than to try to teach his nurse to nurse him, if she does not know how. It ruffles him, and if he is ill he is in no condition to teach, especially upon himself. The above remarks apply much more to private nursing than to hospitals.

I would say to the nurse, have a rule of thought about your patient's diet; consider, remember how much he has had, and how much he ought to have to-day. Generally, the only rule of the private patient's diet is what the nurse has to give. It is true she cannot give him what she has not got, but his stomach does not wait for her convenience, or even her necessity. Why, because the nurse has not got some food to-day which the patient takes, can the patient wait four hours for food to-day, who could not wait two hours yesterday? Yet this is the only logic one generally hears. On the other hand, the other logic, viz., of the nurse giving a patient a thing because she has got it, is equally fatal. If she happens to have fresh jelly, or fresh fruit, she will frequently give it to the patient half an hour after his dinner, or at his dinner, when he cannot possibly eat that and the broth too—or worse still, leave it by his bedside till he is so sickened with the sight of it, that he cannot eat it at all. If it is used to having its stimulus at one hour to-day, and to-morrow it does not have it, because she has failed in getting it, he will suffer. She must be always exercising her ingenuity to supply defects, and to remedy accidents which will happen among the best contrivers, but from which the patient does not suffer the less, because "they cannot be helped."

One very minute caution,—take care not to spill into your patient's saucer, in other words take care that the out-side bottom rim of his cup shall be quite dry and clean; if, every time he lifts his cup to his lips, he has to carry the saucer with it, or else to drop the liquid upon, and to soil his sheet or his bed-gown, or pillow, or if he is sitting up, his dress, you have no idea what a difference this minute want of care on your part makes to his comfort and even to his willingness for food.—*Miss Nightingale.*

☞ We shall publish in our next a number of protests from Surgeons of the Army of the Potomac against the statement of a correspondent of the *Evening Post* of April 1st, that certain Generals deny that the Commission has rendered any important service in this army.

PROTECTIVE

War-Claim Association

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK.

OFFICE, 35 CHAMBERS STREET,

NEW YORK.

President.

LIEUT.-GEN. WINFIELD SCOTT.

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Apply in person or by letter, to

HENRY GREENFIELD, *Sec'y*,

35 CHAMBERS STREET, New York.

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1*st. To secure the soldiers and sailors and their families, any claims for pensions, pay, or bounty, etc., without cost to the claimant.*

2*d. To protect soldiers or sailors and their families from imposture and fraud.*

3*d. To prevent false claims from being made against the Government.*

4*th. To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.*

THE MERCANTILE MARINE

INSURANCE COMPANY.

No. 35 Wall Street, New York.

INCORPORATED APRIL, 1842.

Assets over $1,400,000.

MARINE and Inland Transportation risks on Vessels, Freight and Merchandise insured on the most favorable terms.

Policies are issued, loss, if any, payable in Gold, or at the office of RATHBONE, BROTHERS & CO., Liverpool, if desired.

Parties effecting insurance at this office may participate in the scrip dividend of profits, or receive an equivalent cash discount, at their own option.

The risk of war covered at the lowest current rates.

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THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., New York.
A. D. Bache, LL.D., Washington, D. C.
F. L. Olmsted, California.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
A. E. Shiras, U. S. A.
R. C. Wood, Assistant Surg.-Gen'l U. S. A.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., New York.
S. G. Howe, M.D., Boston, Mass.
C. R. Agnew, M.D., New York.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio.
Rt. Rev. T. M. Clarke, Providence, R. I.
Hon. R. W. Burnett, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Hon. Mark Skinner, Chicago, Ill.
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Horace Binney, Jr., Philadelphia, Penn.
Rev. J. H. Heywood, Louisville, Ky.
J. Huntington Wolcott, Boston, Mass.
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George T. Strong, Treasurer.
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Henry W. Bellows, D.D.
George T. Strong.
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HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 18 West Street, Boston, Mass.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 10 3d Avenue, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 46 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 59 4th Street, Pittsburg, Penn.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Columbus, Ohio.
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The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

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General Superintendent, Rev. F. N. Knapp, Washington, D. C. Chief Assistant, J. B. Abbott.
Soldiers' Home, near Baltimore Railroad Depot, Washington, D. C.
Soldier's Lodge, 76 Kingston Street, Boston.
Lodge No. 4, H Street, between 13th and 14th Streets.
Lodge No. 5, Maryland Avenue, near Railroad Station.
Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.
Soldiers' Home, Third Street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky.—James Malone, Sup't. James Morton, Special Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Nashville, Tenn.—L. Crane, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Columbus, Ohio———, Sup't.
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Between Washington and New York—Sol. Andrews, M. D., Surgeon in charge.
Between New York and Boston, via Springfield.
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SANITARY STEAMER.

Cumberland River—New Dunleith.

OFFICE OF THE

Columbian (Marine) Insurance COMPANY,

CORNER OF WALL AND NASSAU STREETS.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - $1,000,000.

From Statement for the Sixth Fiscal Year, ending December 31, 1863.

Total Amount of Assets, January 1, 1864	$3,140,930 80
Total Amount of Premiums	3,252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not	269,614 80
Scrip Dividend to Dealers, on Earned Premiums	15 per cent.
Dividend for the Year to Stockholders	26 per cent.

LOSSES PAID IN GOLD upon Risks on which the Premium is paid in like Currency.

DEALERS WITH THIS COMPANY will be allowed the option (to be signified at the time of application for insurance) of receiving in lieu of scrip, at the end of each year, RETURNS IN CASH, (guaranteed by certificate) of premiums paid and earned during the year, whether loss accrues or not, upon all new risks under the NEW YORK FORM OF POLICY, as follows:

1st. Upon all VOYAGE Risks upon CARGO, a return of TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT.

2d. Upon VOYAGE Risks upon FREIGHT, a return of TWENTY PER CENT.

3d. Upon TIME Risks upon FREIGHT, and upon VOYAGE and TIME Risks upon HULLS, a return of TEN PER CENT.

Such privilege, however, being confined to persons and firms, the aggregate of whose premiums upon such policies earned and paid during the year, shall amount to the sum of one hundred dollars.

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PARTICIPATION

FIRE INSURANCE.

NORTH AMERICAN

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Of the City of New York,

OFFICE, No. 114 BROADWAY.

INCORPORATED 1823.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - - - - $500,000 00
ASSETS, - - - - - - - 604,535 59

NO CLAIMS FOR LOSSES.

Abstract of the EIGHTY-THIRD Semi-Annual Statement, showing the Condition of the Company on the 31st day of December, 1863.

ASSETS:

Loans on Bond and Mortgage, being first lien on Real Estate, worth over Fifty per cent. above the amount loaned	$157,360 00
Stocks, Bonds, and other Securities owned by the Company, market value	364,385 00
Cash in Bank and Office	6,603 11
Loans on demand with collateral	46,000 00
Premiums due and outstanding	5,384 00
Cash in Agents' hands in course of transmission, (business of December since received,)	10,220 39
Interest accrued on Securities	13,788 83
Other Property of Company	793 75
	$604,535 59

Losses unpaid, none.

Insures Property against Loss by Fire at usual rates, at the Office of the Company, or through their Agents in the principal Cities and Villages of the United States; adjusting and paying Claims with the liberality and promptness that has characterized their business during the past *Forty-one Years.*

The Customers receive **Three-Fourths** of the Net Profits of the business each year, without incurring any liability whatever.

R. W. BLEECKER, Sec'y. **JAMES W. OTIS, Pres't.**

R. F. MASON, Superintendent of Agencies.

DURYEA'S MAIZENA

RECEIVED

TWO PRIZE MEDALS

(FROM JURIES 3 AND 4)

AT THE

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION,

LONDON, 1862.

Being Sole Awards gained by anything of the kind. It also received Superlative Report of

"EXCEEDING EXCELLENT FOR FOOD."

MAIZENA,

At the GREAT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION at HAMBURG, July, 1863, received the highest Prize Medal for its great delicacy as an article of food.

MAIZENA,

At the FAIR of the NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, at Utica, N. Y., September, 1863, received both DIPLOMA and MEDAL.

MAIZENA,

AT THE

Pennsylvania State Fair at Norristown,

OCT. 3, 1863, TOOK GOLD MEDAL.

"MAIZENA" has also taken the first premium at the AMERICAN INSTITUTE, New York City; NEW JERSEY STATE FAIR at Trenton, and at other places—in every instance where it has been exhibited.

"MAIZENA" has never failed to receive the highest award when placed in competition with Corn Starch and all articles of like character, after a thorough Microscopical and Analytical Examination of disinterested judges. It therefore stands commended to the public as the best article of its kind in the world without any comments of the manufacturer.

MAIZENA,

For Puddings, Cakes, Custards, Blanc Mange, &c., without isinglass, with few or no eggs, at a cost astonishing the most economical. It is also excellent for thickening sweet sauces, gravies for fish and meat, soups, &c. For Ice Cream, nothing can compare with it. A little boiled in milk will produce rich cream for Coffee, Chocolate, Tea, &c.

Put up in one pound packages, under the trade mark "Maizena," with directions for use.

A most delicious article of food for children and invalids of all ages. For sale by Grocers and Druggists everywhere.

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WM. DURYEA, General Agent.